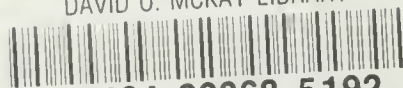


THE
HISTORY OF ELTON

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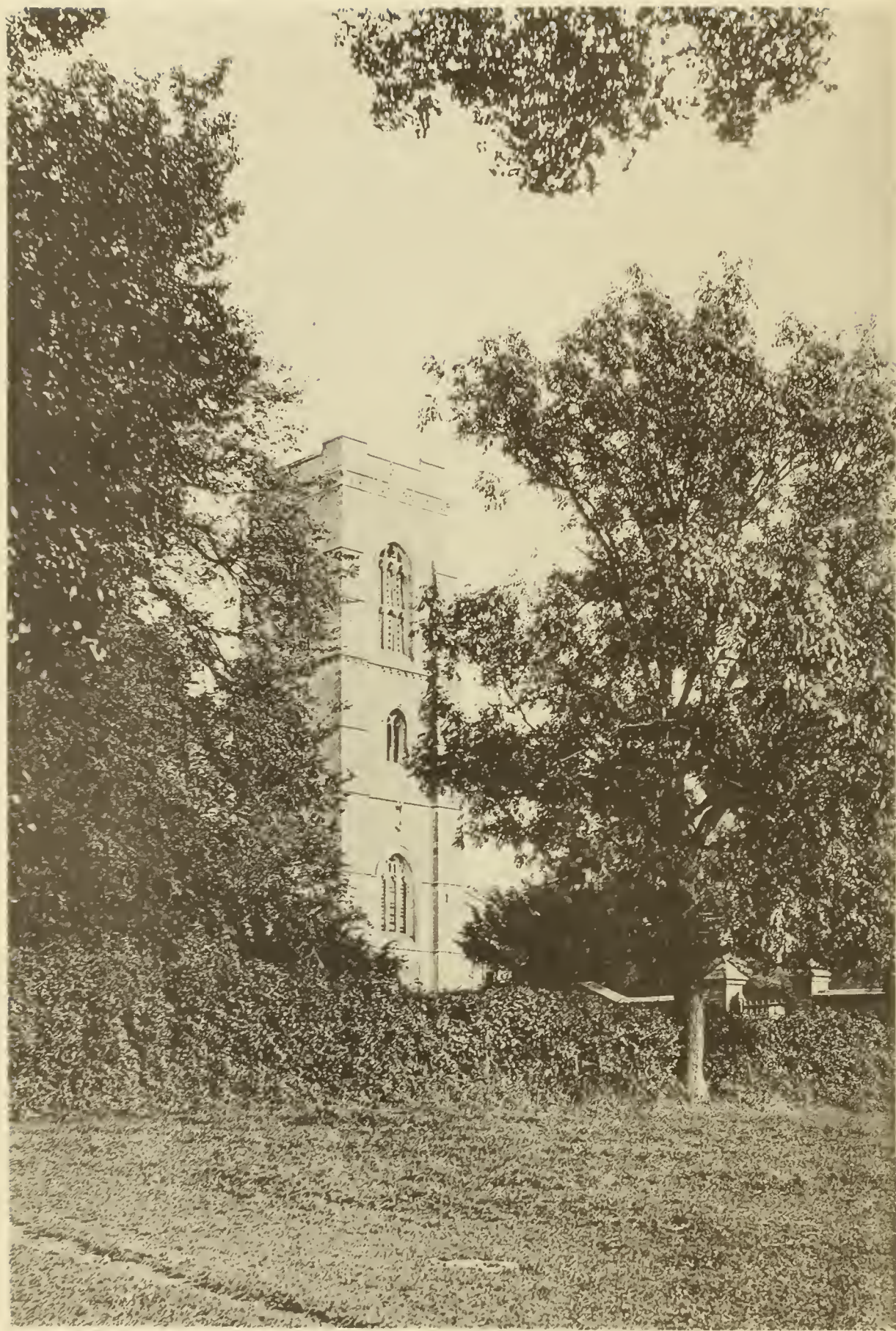
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Elton Church Tower.

Fetterdale

The History

OF

AILINGTON, AYLTON, OR ELTON.

BY THE

REV. ROSE FULLER WHISTLER, M.A.

OF EMMANUEL COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE; RECTOR;

A VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE SUSSEX ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

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"THE ASHBURNHAM REGISTERS,"

"PENHURST, ITS CHURCH AND IRON WORKS,"

"THE CAROLINE RELICS AT ASHBURNHAM PLACE," ETC.

(*Articles in the Sussex Archæological Collections.*)

LONDON:

MITCHELL AND HUGHES, 140 WARDOUR STREET, W.

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EARL OF CARYSFORT, K.P., ETC., ETC.,
LORD OF THE MANOR OF ELTON,

TO WHOM

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Introduction.

THE three adjoining parishes of Fotheringhay, Nassington, and Elton have directly or indirectly something in common, and it may therefore be desirable that the histories of the two former, which have already been published, should be supplemented by some account of the latter.

The principal interest of Fotheringhay revolves round the pathetic close of Mary Stuart's life. During her prolonged captivity there can be little doubt that her eyes must have rested very often upon the "lordly tower of Elton Church," the most prominent object in the landscape as seen from the site of the now demolished castle in which she met her melancholy end. Moreover, Elton was the first village through which the corpse of the ill-fated Queen was conveyed on the way to its temporary resting-place in Peterborough Cathedral. Other matters also of less romantic character form connecting links between the two places.

The visit of Canute to Nassington, and the results which sprung from it of lasting importance to Elton, would, even if there were no other tie, blend the history of these two localities.

The following notes may therefore be fitly added to those of Cuthbert Bede, Archdeacon Bonney, and the Rev. C. J. Gordon, which have already appeared. They are written with a view to engage the general interest of the inhabitants of Elton, and are somewhat full of particulars relating to the parish, which, although often very simple in themselves, may, nevertheless, be of importance to occasional readers.

" All that is past we seek to treasure here,
All that may make the past a thing of life ;
And we would save what else in worldly strife
Might perish, though the present hold it dear."

The Illustrations are from Photographs taken by the Rev. C. W. Whistler, reproduced in collotype by Messrs. Griggs.

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THE HISTORY OF Ailington, Aylton, or Elton.

CHAPTER I.

EARLY RECORDS OF ELTON.

THE name of the parish has varied in the course of years, from its first form Athelniton to Adelintone, Aillington, Ailton, Ayletone, and finally to its modern appellation of Elton. No doubt this has been reached by gradual contraction; and the conjecture that it may be referred to the same origin as the Allingtons in Kent, Devon, and elsewhere—the town of the Ælings—is probable; although the derivation from Ethelin, a young noble, and thence Ethelinton, the town or holding of a young noble, may be the more likely origin of the word. In the oldest parish register, under the date 1598, we find it called Aillington, afterwards in 1602 there is a change to Ailton, then in 1614 to Aylton; from this time forward we find only the modern form.

That invaluable document, the Domesday Survey of England, taken in 1085, gives much useful information about our parish; and, as we shall find, supplies a link in an interesting passage of its history which serves indirectly to identify it with the village mentioned on the occasion of the visit of Canute to Nassington fifty years before that date. It also shews that there was a Saxon Church, probably on the site of the present building, before the time of the Norman invasion and conquest. The original notice of Elton, to which reference is made, is as follows:

HVNTED'SCIRE

de Rame 57g

VI.

TERRA S^CI BENEDICTI

NORMANECROS HVND'

⁊ In ADELINTVNE h̄b abb de Ramet/t x hidas ad gld. Tra' xxiiii car' 7 in dñio trā iii car' ext' p̄dictas hid'. Ibi n̄c in dñio iii car. 7 xxviii uitt h̄ntes xx car'. Ibi æc̄c̄ta 7 p̄hr ii molini xl folid' 7 clxx ac p'ti. T. R. E. uať xiiii lib. m°.

This, amplified from the abbreviations, which, in so comprehensive a survey, were almost inevitable, would appear thus :

de Ramese

TERRA SANCTI BENEDICTI

In Adelintune habet Abbas de Ramesei x hidas ad geldum, Terra xxxviii carucæ et in dominio terra iiii carucæ extra predictas hidas. Ibi nullo in dominio iiii carucæ et xxviii villani habentes xx carucas. Ibi ecclesia, et presbiter et ii molini xl solidorum et clxx acræ prati. Tempore Regis Edwardi valebat xiiii libras iii."

Which may be translated :

"THE TERRITORY OF SAINT BENEDICT OF RAMSEY.

"In the Hundred of Norman Cross. In Adelinton the Abbot of Ramsey has ten hides liable to the payment of Danegeld. The ploughed land is thirty-eight carucates, and in demesne there is land to the extent of four carucates beyond the aforesaid hides. There are there in no demesne four carucates, and twenty-eight villeins holding twenty carucates. There is a church, and there is a priest, and there are two mills worth eleven shillings, and one hundred and seventy acres of meadow. In the time of King Edward it was worth fourteen pounds (of silver) and three (shillings)."

In further elucidation of this, it may be well to explain some of the terms employed, as without some such explanation the extract will be to some extent unintelligible.

By the term "hide" we are to understand an uncertain quantity of land varying in different localities, but in a general way as much as was sufficient for one plough. Of this land some was liable to the payment of a tax called "Danegeld,"* which from the time of Canute the natives of England were compelled to pay yearly to the Danes. It was one object of the Survey to fix the proportions of this payment upon the proper persons. There were many exceptions, as, for instance, the demesne lands of churchmen and religious houses, of the great lords who held their lands by military service, of some again by special grant from the king.

Wherever the word "terra" occurs in this document, we are always to understand ploughed land.

* "There are certain imperial taxes which the King levies from the whole body of his subjects on appointed occasions. The most ancient of these is the Danegeld, which was instituted by the King and wise men long before the Conquest, as some say to pay off the Danish pirates, but rather for a war levy to provide for the kingdom's defence. For this purpose at least it was continued after the Conquest by the Norman kings, who were equally careful of the safety of their new subjects; but from the beginning of the present reign (Henry II.) it has been rarely exacted, and is now almost wholly discontinued."—From "Court Life under the Plantagenets," p. 136.

The hide, which was the measure of land in the reign of Edward the Confessor, was reduced to the "carucate" by the Conqueror's new standard; and this new measurement was more comprehensive than the old, inasmuch as it not only represented as much land as could be tilled with one plough, but included what would be required for the beasts belonging to it for the year, having meadow, pasture, and houses for the householders and their cattle.*

Such persons as were "in demesne," "in dominio," were wholly under the lord's disposal both in body and goods, and in this respect they who were not "in demesne" would be free men. The villeins were practically in absolute servitude, with their children and effects belonging to the lord of the manor, like cattle or stock upon it; they could not leave their land without permission, and no occupation was too mean or servile for them.†

We may note further that wherever a mill is mentioned in this Survey, we find one now. The value of such property was enhanced by the fact that tenants were compelled to grind their corn at the lord's mill; hence their value is given. In this instance eleven solidi, or shillings, each of which consisted of twelve pence,‡ equal in weight to rather more than three of our shillings. The pound of silver, "libri," was worth 72 solidi, or about £3 12s. of our present money.

This authoritative notice of Elton is early, yet there is a still earlier record in a Saxon Chronicle, shewing the artifice by which the possession of the manor was transferred from its Danish owner to a Saxon Bishop of Dorchester, by name Æthelric, who originally held some subordinate position in the Abbey of Ramsey, where he was afterwards buried. The narrative, which is full, and very interesting as shewing the manner of the times, is taken from Brayley's "Notes on Ramsey,"§ and is as follows:

"In Huntingdonshire is a certain vill to which remote antiquity gave the name of Athelniton, most pleasant in its situation, convenient for its streams of water, agreeable its level of meadows, having plenty of pasture for cattle, luxuriant from the advantage of a fertile country. This, before the Danes had invaded England, was the inheritance of a certain Englishman, but in the days of King Cnut (1017 to 1035) a certain Dane contracting matrimony by the King's permission acquired the lordship of the before-mentioned vill in right of his wife. When, therefore,

* By an enclosed family estate at Fowls court, co. Berks, where the enclosing ditches are still the boundaries, and which include 460 acres, and is said to be two carucates in the Survey, it would appear that about 230 acres would represent the carucate.—R. F. W.

† Compare the description of "Gurth" in Sir W. Scott's "Ivanhoe."

‡ It was fivepence, Saxon.

§ Page 319, vol. vii.

according to his usual custom, King Cnut was travelling over his kingdom, it happened that he came into these parts, and through the length of his journey turned towards the royal vill of Nassington for the purpose of lodging there; but the smallness of the place, as it refused the benefit of hospitality to the princes and great men attendant upon the King, occasioned them to seek the domestic dwellings of the families in the neighbouring towns and villages.

“Æthelric,* the Bishop whom, on account of his singular prudence and integrity, the King scarcely ever permitted to be absent from his side, was therefore decently lodged at this same Dane’s in the Vill of Athelniton, together with the four joint secretaries of the King; and, since the attendance of the inferiors is not only due to their lords but also to their lords’ seryants, the Dane doubted not that by so much the more attentively and that by so much the more splendidly he served all things necessary in different meats and drinks, by so much the more should he please the King his lord. At last, all being satisfied and the tables removed, they protracted the day till the evening in drinking, and he who performed the office of butler, with the Bishop’s connivance, handed about the cup exceedingly frequent to the Dane, who, being made very merry, began to answer the Bishop’s enquiries as to the stocking and worth of the Vill, how much in chattels, how many herds of beasts and sheep they had in the lordship, what number of acres the court of it was furnished with, and how much money he received yearly from the rental of the whole.

“Then the Bishop most readily said: ‘If I could find such a manor to be sold I would purchase it at a suitable price.’ The Dane, whom intoxication spurred on, jollity enlivened, and rashness urged to the loss of his property, replied, ‘If you will bring me to-morrow at the earliest dawn of day fifty marks of gold without deduction, all my effects being removed, I will make over the whole Vill free to you.’ Yet he said this, not that he wished to part with his right by sale, but that he thought the Bishop, so far removed from his bishopric, his trunks so few in number and his caskets so small, could by no industry, by no purchase, scrape together by the end of one night such a weight of the above-mentioned metal.

“But Æthelric, who was no slothful promoter of his own interest, immediately catching the word from his mouth and calling the men who had accompanied him in witness of the proceeding, ‘Let it,’ said he, ‘be according to your word. Behold the witnesses of my faith and of the bargain, that, if I shall not to-morrow before daylight deposit with

* Æthelric was Bishop of Dorchester. He originally held some subordinate position at Ramsey, and always entertained a grateful recollection of the kindly treatment he had received there. He was buried at Ramsey.

you the whole heap of gold that you have asked, you shall accuse me of rashness and deride my failure, if, at the same time, you shall cause your wife to agree with you in the same resolution.' 'My wife's consent,' said the other, 'shall not be wanting; fulfil only what you have engaged.' Then the Dane inclined himself wantonly to laugh at the Bishop and encouraged his wife to dare to do the same.

"What occasion is there to use many words? The husband as well as the wife, measuring their guest's sentiments by their own and judging him to be intoxicated, endeavoured to hasten the business; and through this the bargain, which at first they thought to carry forward in jest, being turned at length into seriousness, was strengthened and confirmed by the caution of the joint suretiship of the two parties, that if the Bishop should keep the faith of his promises there should be no loophole left for the Dane to retreat.

"Then the Dane going to bed betrayed his unconsciousness of the loss of his property by his nocturnal rest. But Æthelric, the laziness of sleep being turned into solicitude for his own advantage, when it was thought that he was laid down, and a notary privately sent for, ordered letters to be dispatched to all his friends, whom that night seemed to afford sufficient space for going to and returning from, adding entreaties to entreaties, that every one of them would now prove a true friend to the cost of the work. He himself also mounted his nag, spurred him on to Court, where he found the King lessening the tediousness of the long night with the play of the dice and tables; to whom being privately admitted and astonished at his nocturnal and sudden coming, he makes known his cause, and borrowed from him all the gold which was then in his coffers, binding himself by the law of loans. Then returning loaded with it, he had hardly recovered his short breath when his different messengers entered, each succeeding the other, and having got such a plenty of gold that pouring it out before their lord, he found that the measure of its weight exceeded his want.

"The Bishop, therefore, agitated with unspeakable joy, immediately at the very dawn of day ordered the Dane to be requested to arise and take the heap of gold. But he, having by the rest he had taken, recovered from his late surfeit or intoxication, pretended to know nothing of the bargain and affirmed that what they said was untrue. Æthelric, however, offering publicly to pay the promised mass of yellow metal, required the estate, thus purchased by a just title of sale according to the testimony of the sureties, to be made over to him; but the Dane refused with a loud voice, exclaiming that a fault committed by one person ought by no means to redound to the prejudice of his heirs. The Bishop answered, 'Although intoxication drove *you* to the fault, yet your wife to

whom the fountain of the inheritance especially belongs, drinking more sparingly seemed to have brought less to the family casks; she, I say, being often questioned if she acquiesced in the agreement, evinced the sacred thirst of gold which she had by her very silence of not contradicting it.' Still the gainsayers, repressing the voice of the witnesses, clamoured as if in their own proper abode. Hence a contention arose, and an appeal was made by both parties to the King, in whose presence the matter being more diligently investigated the suretiships assert the fact of the money having been tendered by the buyer according to the agreement.

"The Dane, being unable to disprove these allegations, and there being no way for him to regain the thing sold, was adjudged to confirm the sale on receiving the price. Yet the wife still litigating and affirming with a babbling voice that two mills in the same Vill were her chattels and did not belong to the appurtenances of the manor, the generous purchaser stopped all contention and further claim by the addition of two marks of gold.

"The husband and wife therefore spontaneously, or obeying unwillingly the sentence, took away all their household goods, stripped the marriage bed of its accustomed clothing, led away their herds of cattle and family, and leaving only the bare walls of their home with those things that were immoveable to the new lord, departed to buy another residence with the gold they had received.

"The Bishop was afterwards confirmed in his purchase by the King; and having rewarded four Barons, by whose lively diligence and ability in the business he was sensible that he had been most effectually assisted, with a present to each of two marks of the remaining gold, he, having the King's Licence, directed his journey towards Ramsey, and assigned to the Abbot and his brethren the before-mentioned Vill for the perpetual supply of their table."

There can be little doubt, if any, that the Vill here mentioned is Elton; the description is exactly what we should expect in those early days when the land was unenclosed, excepting perhaps a portion near the lord's dwelling. It agrees with the brief notice in the general survey; the name corresponds; the two mills were then standing; the "level meadows," the "streams of water," characterize the place now as then "luxuriant from the advantage of a fertile country."

It is probable that the donation of Æthelric to the Abbey of Ramsey may be traced to this day. It is certain that in 1291* the Abbot of Ramsey had a pension from Elton of £3 6s. 8d. At the present time

* This appears from the record of the grants of Pope Nicholas IV. of the tenths of all ecclesiastical benefices to King Edward I. for six years towards defraying the cost of an expedition to the Holy Land. In order that they might be collected at their full value, a taxation by the

(1892) there is an annual charge of £6 9s. 4d. levied upon the Rectorial lands, representing, it is said,* certain rents which formerly belonged to the Crown, and which have been paid by successive Rectors of Elton since the Reformation. This charge is in fact the payment made in the first instance to Ramsey, to which Elton was attached, and it was seized by Henry VIII. at the time of his spoliation of the monasteries. The Crown rights were sold in the reign of Charles II., when the portion chargeable upon the Rectory of Elton became the property of the Earl of Radnor.

It is remarkable that part of this charge issues out of Eaglethorpe in the parish of Warmington “attached to Elton,” and this belongs to another owner, Mr. Hutchinson. Can this represent the actual home of the defrauded Dane? It is certainly significant that the “thorpe” in Eaglethorpe is the definitely Danish term for a settlement, corresponding to the Saxon “ham,” generally denoting the farmstead with the surrounding cottages, etc., of an original Danish settler. It is less comprehensive than the Saxon “ton”; and it is not unlikely that in Eaglethorpe we have some reserved portion of his original holding, or perhaps the “other residence” which the unlucky Dane bought with his dearly acquired gold.

King’s precept was begun in 1288 and completed in 1291. The particulars of this levy are still preserved and may be seen in the British Museum.

The return relating to Elton was :

Ecclesia de Aylington, deduct. pens.	-	-	-	£23	6	8
Pens. Abbis Ramesye in eadem	-	-	-	3	6	8

(“Fenland Notes and Queries.”)

* As explained by Mr. Edward Reeves, of 17 Clement’s Inn, Strand, by whom the payments are received annually.

CHAPTER II.

THE GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF ELTON.

WRITING in 1791, Brydges, the historian of Northamptonshire, makes mention of Elton, although it is actually situated in Huntingdonshire, lying at the extreme north-western corner, and only separated by the narrow River Nene from the adjoining county. He says the town is distinguished into the Nether End, standing on the river where there is a mill, and at one extremity of it the Rectory House, and into the Upper or Over End, at some small distance from the other, where the Church is, and which overlooks the adjacent country with an agreeable prospect. In both parts there were then, he tells us, 109 houses. It is seated, he adds, on a dry soil and hath an air of neatness; it is all open fields except Mr. Proby's estate.

With the exception that the land is now all enclosed, there has probably been no great change during the last century, and this description may in the main serve in the present day. The use of the river, however, which was then navigable and the principal means of communication with the neighbouring towns of Oundle and Peterborough, has been superseded by a branch of the London and North-Western Railway; a substantial bridge, more useful than ornamental, has given facility of approach to the railway, the station being called Elton, although actually in the parish of Fotheringhay. Some thirty or forty dilapidated cottages have been removed. Otherwise the main features remain as they were; the noble trees, which are the glory of the locality, have happily remained in careful hands; still, as in Queen Mary's time, the striking tower of the Church is seen embowered in foliage, conspicuous in its height and from its position, standing as it does upon a hill ninety-three feet above the level of the adjacent fertile pastures.

The whole parish contains 3611 acres, of which the rateable value in 1854 was £4914; it is now £3651. In the upper part, which extends to the low range of hills that runs, like a backbone, through the county of Huntingdon, the soil is chiefly a strong clay, upon which good crops of wheat of excellent quality may be grown; in the lower parts towards the

River Nene* it is gravelly loam, forming rich feeding pastures of great value. This lower district is liable to floods, the cause at times of great loss to the tenants, though not without some compensation from the fertilizing deposit which they leave behind when they subside. In the upper part of the village there is occasionally a scarcity of water. The air is somewhat bracing, but salubrious; the inhabitants in numerous instances have lived to a very great age.

The houses are as a rule good, and often of picturesque design; with very few exceptions, they are built of the excellent stone with which the neighbourhood abounds; many of them are detached, or grouped in small clusters, placed pleasantly on two or three little commons, well sheltered by handsome trees.† A pretty village indeed, enjoying many advantages, and one of which the inhabitants are justly proud.

Although it is only eight miles from the city of Peterborough, Elton is in the diocese of Ely, being the last parish in this direction, and distant many miles from its Bishop and Cathedral.

The population has not greatly varied. There were exceptional times when extensive building was going on at the Hall, while the railway was in course of formation, and when the working of a patented agricultural machine was being carried out; otherwise the numbers appear to have been stationary until the last decade, during which there has been a decline. The first record we have of the enumeration is entered in the Registers, and gives particulars which are of interest; this census was taken in 1760 by "Mr. Gaskell, Francis Bradley, and Richard Edis." The whole number of inhabitants was 630, which was made up of

Housekeepers.....	250
Children	264
Servants	116

Subsequent census returns were as follows :

In 1792 there were 664 inhabitants.

1801	„	738	„
1811	„	717	„
1821	„	785	„
1831	„	738	„

* Cowper's description of the Ouse is equally applicable to the Nene :

" . . . dividing the well watered land,
Now glitters in the sun, and now retires
As bashful, yet impatient to be seen."

"The Task," p. 74.

† Pottle Green (a corruption from St. Botolph's), near the entrance to the Hall, is very striking; the houses being all good, many of them covered with creepers, and placed round the borders of an unenclosed space, adorned with a row of well-grown horse-chestnuts.

In 1841 there were 844 inhabitants.

1851	„	878	„
1861*	„	944	„
1871	„	947	„
1881	„	801	„
1891	„	758	„

By the courtesy of the Earl of Carysfort, the lord of the manor and principal owner of the soil, we are able to give a copy of a valuable manuscript, entitled: “Elton Field Book, an accurate survey of the particulars of all the Arable, Ley, and Meadow Ground in the Manor of Elton and County of Huntingdon, belonging to John Proby, Esq., Lord of the Manor; also an Account of the Inclosures, Homesteads, Commons, and the Number of Yard Land, as well Copyhold and Freeholds, with the names of the present owners and possessors thereof; ascertained from the view and information of a Jury of the Inhabitants and Landholders in the said Manor; with large and compleat abstracts drawn from the Survey from page 203 to page 365, and a general abstract or Intire view of the whole from page 370 to page 381; taken and compleated in the years of our Lord 1747 and 1748 by Tycho and John Wing, Surveyors.”

From this Survey it appears that the Parish was then divided into—

- 1. Inclosure.—Township and Inclosure.
 - The Upper End { Stockhill Field.
Middle Field.
Brook Field.
- 2. Arable.
 - The Nether End { Arnest Field.
Middle Field.
Royston Hill Field.
- 3. Meadow. { The Upper End Meadow.
The Nether End Meadow.

In the first of these divisions we find a very interesting enumeration of the number of houses and the names of their occupants nearly a century and a half ago. We also ascertain that the remainder of the parish was then unenclosed, and that certain recognized boundaries defined the limits of the land used by the several occupiers.

	A.	R.	P.
John Proby, Esqre., had in hand the Manor House Yards and Paradise,† with certain other lands containing	37	3	29
Fra. Hollidge, a messuage and land	4	2	31

* Census 1861.—In this year there were—
218 inhabited houses.
486 males.
458 females.

† Compare Xen., “Anab.,” lib. i., c. ix. In Celene, “Κύρφη βασιλεία ἦν καὶ παράδεισος μέγας.”

	A.	R.	P.
Will. Dexter, a messuage and land	41	3	15
Rich. Dexter, two messuages and	5	2	7
Will. Robinson, a mess. and cottage and	7	3	20
Will. Freeman, a mess. and house and	14	0	25
Will. Rowlatt, a mess. and cottage and	21	3	16
Fra. Cook, a cottage	5	0	35
Ric. Plowright	16	1	0
Fra. Bradley	2	1	26
Tho. Abbot, a cottage and	11	1	25
Robt. Brown	2	2	25
Will. Goodwin, a messuage and	0	3	35
W ^{do} Williamson, cottage and	0	2	20
The Town, a house	0	0	20

AT NETHER END.

W ^{do} Cook, cottage house	0	0	30
Richd. Lee, a messuage	0	1	30
Robt. Ax, a house	0	0	4
Jno. Gaskill, the Water Mills	0	1	30
John Ousby, a cotage	0	2	0
Robt. Newton, a cotage	0	1	20
Tho. Bates, a house	0	0	10
Tho. Morton, a house	0	0	4
John Venters, a house	0	0	6
Will. Dalley, a messuage	0	2	10
W ^{do} Parish, a house (against the corner)	0	0	4
Jno. Samson, a house (against the Pound)	0	0	6
Geo. Chadboum, a house	0	0	4
W ^{do} Stemson, Sheep Walk Farm	249	0	0
M ^r Pauk	23	0	20

The above appear to have been tenants under the Lord of the Manor.

The following were "Freeholders":—

Rich. Dexter, a messuage	}	13	2	19
two messuages, and a cottage, and				
M ^r Munn, mess'ge		6	0	13
Jos. Coleman, a messuage		3	1	28
W ^{do} Tomson, a cott in Upper End	}	0	1	26
a cottage and messuage in Netherend				
Will. Robinson, the Younger		5	2	20
Fra. Henson, a house in the Up. End	}	4	2	11
a messuage				
John Barton, a house and yard in Up. End		0	0	35
John Ford of Lilford		1	0	25

	A.	R.	P.
John Moysey, a messuage in Up. End	1	3	14
Will. Moysey, a messuage	2	1	4
Will. Goodwin, carpenter*	0	1	10
Richd. Lee, a homestead	0	1	12
Will. Saunders, a mess'ge in Up. End	4	1	32
Robt. Hewson, a cotage	0	3	0
John Morton, a mess'ge in Up. End	0	0	28

The following all belong to the Nether End :—

John Bletsoe, a messuage	0	0	36
John Robinson, a house	0	0	24
John Goodwin, a cot. and homestead.....	2	3	2
a messuage			
Ant. Kingston, two messuages	1	3	30
Tho. Kingston, a messuage	0	1	0
Robt. Fitz-John, a messuage	1	0	0
Will. Robinson, a messuage ten ^t Sharman	2	2	2
a messuage			
Jno. Parish, a house.....	0	0	16
John Selby, a messuage	2	1	34
two messuages next the Vicaridg			
Edwd. Allin, a messuage	0	1	13
Richd. Plowright, a cottage.....	1	1	25
a messuage			
Will. Dexter, a messuage	1	0	0
Robt. Page, a messuage	1	0	19
James Cook, a house	0	0	4
Ann Page, a house	0	0	12
Abel Page, a house	0	0	12
Joseph Hill, a messuage	0	0	15
James Earl, a messuage	0	0	24
Richd. Goodwin,† a mess'ge and orchard	0	2	2
a mess'ge next Jas. Mott			
Will. Heuson }	0	3	20
S. Morton } a cottage			
Thos. Mee, a messuage	0	0	26
Thos. Robinson, two messuages	0	1	35
Thos. Rowlatt, a house	0	1	0
Rich. Vincent, a messuage	0	0	20
Richd. Bell, a house	0	0	4

* In Chapel Lane. The house is now pulled down, but the boundaries of the garden still remain. The walnut-tree was planted sixty years ago, and is now nearly in its prime ; the apple-trees, now in full bearing, were grown from pips set at the same time.

† In the main street there is a house upon which is a sundial, with the date 1726, and the initials R. G.

	A.	R.	P.
Edwd. Kingston, a house	0	0	12
Elizh. Hawkins, a house	0	0	30
W ^{do} Mattison, two houses	0	0	18
Rev. Mr Forster, Rector, the Parsonage House	6	3	4
Vicaridge Cottage			
Tho. Blackburn, a mess.	0	0	36
Tho. Plowright, mess. and malt house	2	1	12
Richd. Edis, a messuage	0	2	0
Will. Fitz John, a messuage	2	2	26
a cotage.....			
Fr. Bradley, a messuage	0	0	36
W ^{do} Mails, a messuage	0	0	30
Jas. Hott, two messuages	1	1	22
Tho. Strickson, a messuage	0	1	0
Jno. Ford of Oundle, a house against the Pound	0	0	16

COPYHOLD.

Richd. Dexter, a cott. and mess. in Nether End	1	0	1
Rev. Mr Morgan, a mess'ge.....	1	3	6
Jno. Eatham, a cotage	0	0	20
Rich. Hays, a messuage	0	0	16
Tho. Houton, a messuage	0	1	16
Will. Robinson	0	3	16
Will. Dexter, a messuage	2	1	0
Willm. Robinson, J ^r , a messuage	1	2	13
W ^{do} Storer, a house on the Green	0	0	5

The remainder of the Survey relates to the divisions of the whole lands in Elton into various holdings, in furlongs, fields, and minor portions, the parish being finally divided into :

	A.	R.	P.
1. The Township and Inclosure	566	3	11
Meadow Land	212	1	15
Arable	2068	2	38
Total.....	2847	3	24

Thomas Proby, Esq., then owning 952 a. 2 r. 13 p., of which 325 a. 0 r. 39 p. are described as inclosure, 563 a. 1 r. 31 p. as arable, and 63 a. 3 r. 23 p. meadow.

From these extracts there appear to have been, in 1749, one hundred and eight inhabited houses in Elton, including the four Almshouses, which are not mentioned in the catalogue. There must therefore have been a considerable increase in the parish in the next hundred years, for we find that in 1861 the number of dwellings had amounted to 218.

And this corresponds with the growth in the number of the population, which also increased from 630 in 1760 to 944 in 1861. A small addition to the census returns is recorded in the next decade, when the numbers reached their highest figure, 947. From that time the decrease has been gradual but continuous; and as many of the poorest dilapidated dwellings have of late years been removed, there is very little, if any, probability of any future considerable addition to the number of the good people of Elton.

A very general change has taken place in the inhabitants themselves since the time of the Survey for Mr. Proby. As a proof of this we may note that, of the 87 names given in the list of owners and occupiers, only seven are now to be found in Elton, and only two names still appear in the parish of those who sat as jurors to test the accuracy of the returns; and it is doubtful whether these two, Ellis and Cook, are those of members of extant families, or accidental coincidences. Subjoined are the declaration and names of the jury:

We whose names are underwritten Jurors who owe Suit and Service to John Proby, Esquire, Lord of the Manor of Elton alias Aylton in the County of Huntingdon, upon our view and Inquiry into the truth of the Survey taken A.D. 1747 and 1748 by Tycho and John Wing, do find it to be a true and exact account and Terrar of the lands and properties lying in the said Manor, and we do accept and acknowledge the said Survey as such In Witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands this seventeenth day of May in the Year of our Lord 1749, the account of the Horse, Cow, and Sheep Commons excepted and we agree to settle with the Steward of the Court.

RD. DEXTER.

W^m ROBINSON.

JAMES MOTTE.

THOS. KINGSTON.

W^m ELLIS.

ROBERT BROWN.

NATH. GRAY his + mark.

FFR^s COOKE.

WILLIAM FREEMAN.

JOHN GIDDING.

JOHN MEARS.

FRANCIS HOLDICH.

Many of the Field names mentioned in the foregoing records open up interesting trains of thought, and carry us back to the events and customs of other days. Some suggest at once their origin; the meaning of others is more perplexing. We have extracted a few, and must leave them here to insinuate their own reflections:—

Cawdwell Furlong.

Gospel Piece.

Woongdale Furlong.

Hollow Pan.

Blew-Stone.

Camp lands.

Street Way Furlong.

Ruth Balk.

Far Stones.

Fox holes.

Grimeflake.

Collop Leys.

Dead man's grave Furlong.

Raglands.

Hogs watering.

Butterfly meadow.

Cuckow Balk.

Bright Moores Womb.

Cheescake alias Sharman's Piece.

Otterdam.

Archer's Croft Furlong.

Blew Pebble Hyde.

Twithistles.

A picture of the Parish immediately before the Inclosure is easily traceable from the valuable particulars given in this Survey. We have the Hall and its surrounding enclosed and cultivated; the Village, populous and well furnished with dwellings, each with its messuage or garden. Beyond these limits, with the exception perhaps of the Sheep Walk Farm, the whole of the land is unenclosed; defined, however, by well-known boundaries, in the occupation principally of the tenants of the Lord of the Manor. In the upper part the main roads leading through Elton to Oundle, Stamford, and Peterborough would be wide and good. These roads were maintained by the Road Trustees, and tolls were levied at the turnpike gates, one of which stood at Overend, at the junction of the main street of the village with the leading thoroughfare, and opposite the pound that is still standing. Although the gates have been removed the toll-house remains, and is now in the occupation of a labourer. In the lower part, Nether End, we should find ill-formed lanes, little better than bridle roads, leading to the rude bridge across the Nene—the very name, “Duck Street,” by which this way is still known, being suggestive of the ditches dividing the tracks from the open lands. Here, nevertheless, was to be seen the ancient Rectory House, with its picturesque grey stone mullions and gables, not walled in as now, but surrounded by a fruitful garden, rich in espaliers, and adorned with well-clipped shrubs and hedges. Its distance from the church might be matter of surprise, until we remembered how our ecclesiastical ancestors were wont to seek shelter and a full supply of water, both of which are here, and, with the additional advantage of a deep bed of gravel* for its foundation, compensate for the disadvantages of its position in other respects. The river was then in constant use for the conveyance of goods of various kinds to and from the neighbouring towns. In addition to the old bridge, there was a ford near a mill; there was also a landing-place below the Rectory, where barges were unloaded, on a plot of ground now merged in the glebe, but held as private property under a separate title. To this wharf there was a roadway, which may still be traced, through the Rectory grounds, from “Duck Street” to the river. The subsequent inclosure, and, at a later date, the formation of the railway, completely altered the aspect of the lower part of the village.

* In No. XL. of “*Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica*,” page 46, it is remarked: “Within a mile of Walnsford on the south, but in the Parish of Elton, is a pit where they dig sand, which is very remarkable for several sorts, and different strata of red, white, yellow, and black.”

CHAPTER III.

THE CHURCH.

“*Ibi est Ecclesia.*” Here in Domesday we have our first record of a church in Elton. Of this, the Saxon building, traces were found on the removal of part of the north wall of the chancel, for the purpose of making an organ chamber, in 1886. Nothing is now apparent of this original edifice; there are, however, two fragments of undoubted Saxon tombstones, which must have been coeval with it. These have been carefully placed in the north-west side of the churchyard, set up upon plain stone, in which the proportions of the primitive memorials have been observed with great judgment; they will stand, it is hoped, for many ages as our sole remaining links of connection with this distant past.

Of these ancient Saxon churches, Stow remarks: “But few remain, and parts only of those that are found, for the reason that their buildings were mostly of wood. It was not until the year 680 that Bennet, Abbot of Wirral, master to the Venerable Bede, brought artificers of stone houses and glass windows into this Island among the Saxons, arts before that time to them unknown, and therefore used they but wooden buildings. And to this accordeth Policronicon, who saith that these had ye wooden churches: nay wooden chalices and golden priests, but since golden chalices and wooden priests. And, to knit up this argument, King Edgar in his charter to the Abbot of Malmesbury, dated the year of Christ 974, hath words to this effect: All the Monasteries in my Realme to the outward sight are nothing but wormeaten and rotten timber and boards; and that worse is within they are almost empty and void of divine service.”

When Sir Robert Cotton visited Elton, and this is the next mention we have of the church, he remarks of the chancel that it is “now in a ruinous condition.” To the restoration of that date we must assign the present east window, which differs entirely from all else in the building, and is similar in character to others in the neighbourhood, namely, at Nassington, Stamford, and in other places.

From these fragmentary notices we may pass to the church as it now stands—a noble building, happy in its proportions as in its position,

worthy of its place among those of similar excellence, which adorn the parishes on either bank of the Nene.

As it is approached from the west, the lofty square tower forms a conspicuous and very beautiful object amidst the trees of the surrounding landscape, standing as it does about 93 feet above the river level. The remarkable excellence of the masonry, the regularity and closeness of the joints of the stonework, combine to produce the impression of a more recent building, until a closer inspection proves it to be fifteenth-century work, a glorious specimen of Early Perpendicular architecture. The structure is remarkable and somewhat uncommon; the buttresses being formed as the building gradually contracts, the base is considerably wider than the battlements. It is ornamented at intervals with three bands of quatrefoils; the great west door is deeply recessed, and above it, at the base of a niche, is the figure of a dove with wings expanded—an allegorical representation, one might almost suppose, of the Holy Spirit, descending with blessed influence upon those who enter the Lord's House to worship in the "beauty of holiness." Over the south porch, which is large and of later date, are three niches, the original receptacles of figures of saints (the Church being dedicated to All Saints), which were removed, if not at the Reformation, at the time of the great Rebellion, when the stonework was barbarously mutilated. With these exceptions the exterior is less striking than the interior. The loftiness of the tower takes from the apparent height of the nave, and although the chancel is well defined, the south front is less pleasing than the west. It appears as if depressed; the gable crosses have disappeared, and two weather-beaten pinnacles alone relieve the monotony. The extreme ugliness of the heads on the finials of the hood mouldings on the south side of the chancel, and the grotesqueness of the gurgoyles throughout the building, are noticeable. Compared with the placidity of those within the church, the idea intended to be conveyed is pretty evident—the former symbolizing the mortified enmity of the excluded evil spirits; the latter, the calm satisfaction enjoyed by the faithful, who remain as worshippers in the House of the Lord.

But entering by the west door the effect is exceedingly striking. Through the noble arch which opens the tower to the nave, the eye takes in the full length of the building, 121 feet, while the wide span of the chancel opening displays its full proportions. Two other lofty arches, one on either side, include the base of the tower entirely within the church. In the centre of the tower opening stands the font, supported by piers having a quatrefoil section, and standing upon square bases. Four bays connect the nave with the aisles; the width of these is 50 feet, of the chancel 19.

For further particulars we may refer to the work of one* who has devoted much time and learning to the description of the churches of the district. "The chancel," he says, "though much altered, and the nave arcade, are the earliest parts; they are of early Decorated work, dating, perhaps, from 1300 to 1320. The internal features of the chancel are in part hidden. In the south wall are three two-light windows, all different; that nearest the east end has a double trefoil, the lights being very thin. The next has long thin lancets divided by a thick mullion, and a quatrefoiled circle above. The last has much broader lights, and the tracery is of a much later character, approaching the flamboyant style, but the mouldings of all are identical: this window cannot be so old as the others. The low side window has been blocked up; it has the original iron stanchions remaining outside. To the west of it there is visible a second opening, the use of which has not been satisfactorily explained. There are three sedilia, graduated, and a piscina; the heads are cinquefoiled, and they are divided by thin shafts. The hood moulds of the window are terminated by heads both internally and externally. In the north wall is an aumbry or credence table. The altar levels are original, the steps shallow and very broad. The staircase to the rood loft is north of the chancel arch. There are two small apertures visible from the chancel which seem to be for lighting the staircase. A third opening is possibly for a squint, or the upper one may possibly have lighted a priest's room over the vestry. The chancel arch has continuous mouldings; the thin inner shafts supporting it are new; they have the nail heads under the capitals. The chancel is twisted to the north."

In the nave there are low open seats, in which many of the old oak bench ends remain, and probably in their original position; some of these are ornamented with the linen pattern. The aisles are of later date than the nave, and, as may be seen from the string course outside which shews the position of the former roof, somewhat wider than those which they superseded. In that to the north there are preserved five carved stone heads, which may have been finials to old hood mouldings. Of these, one nearest to the east end is a representation of a Roman head, which was probably saved from the Saxon building, and made when the memory of those whom Faber calls "those awful Romans" still lingered in the recollection of the Saxon workmen. The two nearest this are merely conventional sculptures. Those to the west are the heads of females of an early date, in coifs.

The latest improvements and reparations were made in 1885, when a faculty was granted "to strip away and renew the roofs on the north and

* Sweeting, "Parish Churches."

south sides, to repair all defective stone and wood work, to cut a door through the north wall of the chancel, to close up the present vestry door, and replace the same with a window, to take up the floors of the two eastern bays of the south aisle, and repave the same with tiles, to alter, adapt, and refix the present old seats in the second bay of the south aisle," according to plans proposed by J. L. Pearson, R.A., at a cost of £940,* to be entirely provided by the Earl of Carysfort.

During the progress of this work, six square-headed clere-story windows with centre mullions were discovered, two on the north, and four on the south side of the nave. These were opened and restored.

Another interesting discovery was the flat alabaster memorial stone of Robert Sapcote, Esq., bearing an incised figure in armour, surmounted by the crest, a goat's head, and surrounded by an inscription given elsewhere. This stone, which had been turned face downwards and used as a hearth-stone, was also preserved, and carefully set upon the floor of the south aisle, close to the Earl's Chapel.

The church thus repaired, restored, and adorned, was reopened with appropriate services in July, 1886. It had previously, in 1872, been heated with hot water at the expense of the late Earl of Carysfort.

Of the memorials of departed worthies which the church contains, the most conspicuous are two three-light painted and stained glass windows erected, in June 1870, to the memory of Admiral Proby, third Earl of Carysfort, and of Isabella, wife of Granville Leveson, third Earl. They represent scenes in the life of our Lord, and were executed by Baillie and Mayor, of Wardour Street, London. There is also a third painted window on the south side of the chancel, representing the visit to the Lord's tomb, in memory of the Right Hon. Augusta Maria, widow of the fourth Earl, and eldest daughter of the second Earl of Listowel. Three other windows—two in the chancel, and the large west window—

* As usually happens, the actual expenditure far exceeded this estimate, the sums expended being—

	£	s.	d.	
Mr. Thompson, builder	1,435	6	0	
Mr. Pearson, architect	98	0	0	
	<hr/>			
	1,533	6	0	
all paid by the Earl of Carysfort.				
In addition to the above his lordship also gave towards the organ..	146	0	0	(Lewis.)
and to Robinson, for the carved oak case for the organ	105	0	0	
	<hr/>			
	1,784	6	0	
The other half cost of the organ was paid by subscription	146	0	0	
	<hr/>			
	1,930	6	0	

which sum represents the total cost of the last restoration in 1886.

are filled with heavy stained glass in geometrical patterns, inserted by Father Faber, but not in accordance with the improved taste of the present day. There was a fourth of the same kind in the north aisle, for which a lighter substitution was made by the late Rector.

No brasses remain. There is the matrix of one in a large stone slab, which has been removed at some time from the church to the porch. A family so ancient and respectable as the Sapcotes would hardly be unrecorded, and the probability is that brasses commemorative of some members of the race must have been removed, as so often happens, when the nave and chancel were repaved.* The two memorials that we have were probably their last records, and we cannot suppose that there was nothing to mark the resting place of the numerous members of the family whose remains lie beneath the Manor Chapel at the east end of the south aisle. These two are remarkable: the earlier is now inserted in the north wall in the south aisle above the arcade, and consists of a shield of arms cut in stone in bold relief, with an inscription in raised letters resting thereon in the place of a crest, "Svre richard Sapcote Knyght"; the arms being those of the family: Three dove-cots or castles, two and one, impaling what appear to be three inverted portcullises or gates or weathercocks. This Sir Richard was High Sheriff of Cambridge and Huntingdon in 1470;† his widow Dame Isabel died in 1493. The other is the flat marble (or alabaster) slab, now placed, as has been mentioned, adjoining the Earl's Chapel.

Several mural tablets commemorate various members of the Proby family, and a series of flat black marble slabs lies on the floor of the chancel over the graves of the Balls, who for about a century were Rectors and Patrons of Elton. Subjoined are the descriptions of these, and of certain others which are also remaining.

On the east wall of the south aisle, a neat marble tablet, surmounted by the family arms (Ermine, on a fess gules a lion passant or), bears the following inscription:—

Probasti me D^{nc}
 Spe certa resurgendi in Christo
 Heic juxta depositæ sunt exuviæ
 Thomæ Proby armigeri filii natu
 Maximi Thomæ Proby Baronetti
 hujus Manerii domini Francescæ
 uxore sua natu tertia Thomæ

* In proof of this, compare "Visitation of Huntingdon."

† "Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica," No. xl., p. 36. "Richard Sapcote, of Elton, Knight, the first setter up of the family in Huntingdonshire, was buried at Foderingey anno domini 1477."

Cotton de Cunnington in hoc comitatu
 Baronetti qui optimæ spei ju
 venis postquam literis peregrinatione
 et su'ma pietate animum
 diligentur excoluisset decimo octavo
 Ætatis anno et mense ultra decano
 Lenta febre correptus amicis plurimum
 lugentibus quarto die 7bris A° salutis 1684
 (heu nimis propere) moriens valedixit.

At the corner of the south aisle, and behind which a chimney was formerly built, is a large marble tablet of some importance, with the Proby arms beneath, and bearing this inscription :—

Spe resurgendi
 Prope hic jacent
 Johannes Proby armigeri
 Henæagii Proby Baronetti
 Filius, natu secundus
 Medii Templi socius
 et quondam Thesaurarius
 ad Comitia Regni pro hoc Comitatu
 frequens dilectus
 Vir vere pius literatus
 Morum indolumque suavitate
 Maritus optimus Pater indulgentissimus
 Erga ingenos munificus
 Erga inferiores perquam humanus
 Erga principem fidelis
 Pacis custos et conservator
 Ex æquo et bono munero perfungebatur
 Janam Richardi Cust Baronetti ex agro
 Lincolniensi sibi uxorem adjunxit
 Ex qui unicam habuit filiam
 Tanti patris dignam
 Obiit decimo quarto Novembris
 Anno Salutis 1710
 Ætatis 70
 Anno sequenti nempe 1711
 Decimo sexto Decembris
 Decessit Francisca Johannis
 et Janæ Proby filia
 Anno ætatis suæ vigesimo
 Mœstissimam et inconsolabilem
 relinquens Matrem

THE HISTORY OF ELTON.

Quæ secundo die Maii sequentis
 Præ dolore et tristitia
 ad plures secuta est,
 Maritum optimum et filiam.

On the wall of the south aisle, on a plain marble tablet :—

John Joshua* Earl of Carysfort K.P.
 was born 9 Sept. 1751
 died 7 April 1828
 He left issue
 by his first wife Elizabeth daughter of
 Sir William Osborne Baronet whom
 He married March 1774
 John born December 1780
 Granville Leveson born September 1783
 Gertrude born March 1782
 and
 by his second wife Elizabeth daughter of
 The Right Hon. George Grenville† whom
 he married April 1787
 Charlotte born January 1788
 Frances born March 1789
 Elizabeth born April 1792
 He succeeded to the Barony of Carysfort in Ireland
 by the death of his father October 1772
 He was advanced to the dignity of Earl of Carysfort 1 Aug. 1789
 And created a Peer of Great Britain January 1801
 by the Title of Baron Carysfort of Norman Cross.
 This Tablet with its Inscription was put up to his
 memory in the most simple unadorned form by
 his express direction.
 He was tenderly loved and deeply lamented.

On the south wall of the south aisle, on an oval tablet of stone
 surrounded by a wreath, beneath which is a cherub :—

M. S.
 Ellenæ, Heneagii, Elizabethæ
 Franciscæ Proby

* John Joshua Proby, K.P., created Earl by George III., was born at Elton Hall 1780; succeeded 1828; educated at Rugby. M.P. for Buckinghamshire, 1805-1806. General, 1846; served in Germany, Ireland, and with the Russian army at Zurich, in Egypt, Sweden, Spain (Corunna and Tarifa), and at Walcheren; he commanded a Brigade of Guards at Bergen-op-Zoon.

† The Right Hon. George Grenville, First Lord of the Treasury in 1763.

Parentes mœstissimi Thomas Proby
Baronettus et Francisca Uxor P.P. A^o

1685

Ellena	} obiit	{	10 th 1670 an' 12	{	
Heneagus			Augt. 1, 1671 meus : 6		
Elizabetha			10, 27 1679 æt. { 15		
Francesca			Augt. 5, 1680 an { 17		

Deus autem et Dominum suscitavit
et nos suscitabit Potentiâ suâ.

1 Cor. c. 6, v. 14.

On south wall of south aisle, a marble monument surmounted by an
urn with arms below, Proby impaling Cotton :—

Thomas Proby Baronettus
Dominus hujus Manorii de Aylton
et aliorum complurum manerorium
ex antiqua familia oriundus
Vir egregie pius bene fidus prudens eloquens literatus
Rerum etiam tam domesticarum quam politicarum
scientissimus
ad Comitia Parliamentaria
Unanimis correptionalium suffragiis sæpe deputatus
Singulari semper extitit in Patriam
officio et fide.
In matrimonium duxit Franciscam filiam Thomæ
Cotton de Connington Baronetti ex Alicia altera
Uxore natu maximam de qua successit filios
Thomam Heneagium filias autem Franciscam
Elizabetham Elenum et Aliciam quam unicam
e liberis ei superstitem reliquit.
Amicus maritus Pater optimus
Atrophia diu laboravit tandem morti succubuit
xxii die April: ætatis LVII annoq' Dom'
MDCLXXXIX.
Et juxta huic conditur expectans Resurrectionem
Fælicem
In cujus memoriam mœstissima conjux
Pietatis et amoris ergo hoc monumentum
posuit.

On a flat black marble slab within the altar rails are the arms of Ball impaling Cumberland, and beneath them the following inscription :—

In memory of
 Revd. Thomas Ball D.D.
 son of the Rev. Thomas Ball M.A.
 and Elizabeth his wife one of the
 Coheireses of the Revd. John Cooper
 Who founded the Hospital
 of this Town
 He married Anne the eldest
 Daughter of the Right Rev.
 Richard Cumberland
 Lord Bishop of Peterborough
 He was one of the Justices
 of the Peace for this County
 late Rector of this Parish and of
 Gretford in the County of Lincoln
 and a Prebendary of Peterborough
 Who died the 9th of February 1722
 Aged 55 years.

At the side of this stone another flat marble, on which is inscribed, beneath the armorial bearings :

In memory of
 The Rev. Samuel Ball LL.D.
 late Rector of this Parish
 who died the 9th of January 1738
 Aged 32 years.

Also

In memory of
 Anne Ball the wife of the
 said Samuel Ball LL.B.
 who died the 8th of November 1735
 aged 27 years.

And also

In memory of
 Anne Ball the eldest Daughter
 of the Rev^d Thomas Ball D.D.
 who died the 20th of October 1776
 aged 75 years.

Also within the altar rails, a flat black slab, bearing the arms of Ball with impalement, inscribed :

Within this Vault
are deposited the Remains
of Martha the wife
of the Rev. Thomas Ball M.A.
Whose many
Amiable Qualities when alive
Rendered her justly esteemed
And her death greatly lamented
She died Jany. 30, 1766, aged 29 years.

Also in the same Vault
are deposited the Remains
of the said Thomas Ball D.D.
Rector of Eriswell
in the County of Suffolk
and Great Massingham
in the County of Norfolk
He died June 9, 1789, aged 55 years.

Another flat black marble slab on the chancel floor, within the rails, has an oval sunk recess, with the arms of Forster impaling . . . , and bearing this legend :—

Underneath this marble stone
are deposited the remains of
Jane Forster
Relict of the late John Forster D.D.
many years Rector of this Parish
She died the 2^d of April 1792
Aged 78 years.

On the east wall of the chancel, on a marble tablet :—

Within the vault beneath are
deposited the remains of
Jane the eldest daughter of the Revd.
W^m Forster Rector of this Parish
& of Jane his wife.
She left this world for a better, 1st December 1764.

In grateful remembrance
of her exemplary behaviour
to her parents and family
this marble by them is erected.

Arms of Forster in a lozenge.

On a marble tablet on the south wall of the chancel, surmounted by an urn, on which have been painted the arms of Forster impaling other arms now obliterated, there is this inscription :—

Here lie the remains of the Rev^d and learned
John Forster D.D.
Forty nine years Rector of this Parish
Whose many and singular virtues
are best testified
by the sincere regret of his friends and Parishioners
And the unspeakable grief
of a grateful and affectionate Family
He died Feb. 13, 1787,
Aged 73 years.

Ye who to this sad urn repair
And pay the grateful sigh
Where worn with age and pious care
Your Pastor's reliques lie,

Trust that his soul in yon bright skies
A blissful mansion gains
And still beneath its shepherd's eyes
His much loved flock remains.

And though his well known voice no more
The Gospel's truth display
His spotless life as heretofore
To Heaven will point the way.

Mark then his virtues erst so bright
His precepts still regard
Till you in happier realms unite
And share his just reward.

On the south wall of the chancel there is a marble memorial to Lord Proby, which was removed from its original position in the opposite wall, when an arch was inserted for the reception of the organ. This unfortunate removal has had the effect of turning the back of a mourning figure, sculptured in statuary marble, to the east. Above the figure is a baron's coronet, and the family motto, "Manus hoc inimica tyrannis." Beneath is the touching record :

Thy Will be done.

Erected
By their sorrowing brothers and sisters
To the memory of
John Joshua, Lord Proby

eldest son of Granville Leveson 3rd Earl of Carysfort
& Isabella daughter of the Hon. Hugh Howard
born 3 April 1825 died 19 Nov. 1858

also to

Hugh, born 27 Augt. 1828
who was drowned in Australia
30 Augt. 1852.

On the wall of the north aisle is a plain marble tablet in memory of Samuel Rowlatt, who died May 18, 1814, aged 70, late of Stoke Doyle.

Conspicuous by their absence are the memorials of the numerous Sapeotes who were buried beneath the Manor Chapel. We miss also what certainly should be found in Elton Church, some record worthy of the Rev. John Cooper, whose charitable foundation has for two hundred and seventy years brought comfort to the declining years of so many deserving inhabitants of the village. To some who, in this our day, are advocates for the extinction of private patronage in the Church, it might be a timely consideration that here, as in many other instances, among the greatest benefactors are to be found Rectors of Elton, who were also patrons of the benefice—notably this founder of the Hospital, and Rector Ball, the liberal donor of the costly sacramental plate.

CHAPTER IV.

THE GOODS OF THE CHURCH, AND THE CHURCHYARD.

THERE are five bells, two of which have been recast.

No. 1 weighs 10 cwt., and has the inscription : “ Thomas Norris cast me 1631.”

No. 2 weighs 12 cwt., and is inscribed : “ ✚ IESUS SPEEDE ME. OMNIA FIA^NT AD GLORIAM DEI. Thomas Norris cast me 1631.”

No. 3 weighs 15 cwt., inscribed : “ Tho. Robinson and W. M. Dexter Churchwardens 1746. OMNIA FIA^NT AD GLORIAM DEI.”

No. 4, 18 cwt. : “ Thomas Norris cast me 1631. Recast by Mears & Co. of London 1864.”

No. 5, one ton : “ W. Pix Th : Barker Ch. Wns. 1631. Recast by G. Mears & Co. of London 1864.”*

These bells are remarkably melodious ; and as their sound is heard far and wide from their elevated position in the belfry, as it comes floating down to the Rectory it may well have suggested to the poet Rector the well-known lines which are said to have been written at Elton :

“ Far, far away, like bells at evening pealing,
The voice of Jesus sounds o’er land and sea ;
And laden souls by thousands meekly stealing,
Kind Shepherd, turn their weary steps to Thee.
Angels of Jesus, angels of light,
Singing to welcome the pilgrims of the night ! ”

The bell-ringers, six in number, are regularly appointed by the Rector, and consent to be guided by a fixed code of rules suspended in the belfry. Among the customary times for ringing are the annual Feast Day—formerly held on the first Sunday after All Saints’ Day—and after morning service when the banns of any well-known couple are “ asked.” Upon the latter occasion a singular term is used : they are said to be rung “ for a spur.” No reason for the use of this phrase is

* The large bell, recast in 1864, was at the expense of Lady Isabella Proby, whose name is commemorated on the marble slab in the churchyard.

current. We can only conjecture that it is suggestive of an incitement to keep the parties "up to the mark," and to urge them forward to matrimony.

In the tower is a clock, now disused, with one face only, and that on the eastern side, where it is but little seen. In the old church books are several entries of payments to the clock "smith." Report says that the attempt by this worthy to convert it from a one to an eight-day clock was unsuccessful, and that it has never since been "practicable."

On the south side of the tower there are the remains of a sundial, now all but obliterated, but which it is hoped may be renewed.

Within the church, the plate, books, and ornaments are all interesting. The first, with the exception of the oldest chalice and paten, was the gift of Rector Ball; the books were provided by Faber, and each one contains his autograph, written at the time of the presentation, 1843; the altar table, a very handsome one of oak, was the gift of Bishop Claughton; the hangings were presented by Mrs. Kempthorne; the brass cross and candlesticks were offerings from a friend to the late Archdeacon. We miss with regret a massive pair of candlesticks, the gift of Faber to the church, which unfortunately have been alienated, it is feared without much hope of their restoration.

The church plate is good and interesting, and happily the vessels of early date have not been parted with, as has frequently happened, by exchange or otherwise on the acquisition of duplicates of more modern character.

Of the earlier vessels there are (1) a chalice of silver, $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches high, $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide at the bowl, with a silver paten (2), dated 1571, forming also a cover to the chalice. A reference to "Old English Plate," by W. J. Cripps (p. 195), shews that this plate is somewhat rare. An illustration is there given of two pieces exactly similar in form, and bearing the same Hall marks, dated 1570, and in use at Cirencester; the marks are a fleur-de-lis, the maker's and the Hall mark for 1571-2. There is also (3) a chalice of silver, $5\frac{5}{8}$ inches in height, the bowl 3 inches in diameter, without Hall mark or inscription.

These three articles were probably procured to replace others that were stolen, of which there is mention made in a document preserved at the Record Office, which relates that in 2 Edward VI. (1549) there were "stolen out of the keypyng of Mr Robt. Sapcottes a patten wth a challice waienge ij oz. allsoe on other patten was stolne out of the keping of the p'sh priste and the Baylif waieng iij oz."

The remaining plate was the gift of Rector Ball, and bears on each vessel similar engravings and inscriptions, viz., the arms of Ball impaling Cooper, and the legend, "Ex dono Thomæ Ball Rectoris de Aylton, 1670."

These articles are three in number, and of the dimensions here given:—Large silver flagon with lid (4), $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, width at base $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches, at lid 5 inches. Silver paten (5), width $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches, height $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches nearly. A similar paten (6).

The organ, by Lewis, was procured at the time of the last church restoration, by subscriptions of the parishioners and their friends, largely supplemented by the Earl of Carysfort.

Elton churchyard,* which was enlarged in 1869, contains, inclusive of the addition and of the site of the church, 1 a. 1 r. 9 p. Its situation is beautiful. Being at the summit of a considerable elevation, it affords a somewhat distant view into Northamptonshire, the river in the foreground, seen here and there among the numerous trees, giving animation to the scene. It is traversed from east to west by a broad gravelled path much frequented by foot-passengers from “Overend” to “Netherend.” A stranger would be struck by the unusual number of gravestones which surround the church on all sides, none of which, however, if we except the two Saxon memorials now set up at the north-west end of the yard very near the tower, are of any antiquity; neither is there anything remarkable in the epitaphs. Many great ages are recorded. The ancient custom of planting and placing flowers upon the graves is largely observed. It is no uncommon sight on a Sunday morning to find villagers replacing faded flowers by fresh ones, reminding one of the pathetic lines on “Fair Fidele’s grassy tomb”:

“Then to her grave shall village maidens bring
Selected garlands each returning spring;
Selected sweets in honour of the maid,
Who underneath the mossy turf is laid.”

The little enclosed spaces round a few graves belonging to various families are planted with the old fragrant cabbage-rose, red and white pinks, daisies, and such like perennials. As a rule these miniature gardens are cared for and well kept. Yew-trees somewhat thickly planted will soon, if not carefully pruned, encroach upon the available portion of the ground. One, near the south porch, which was very ornamental, has unfortunately been removed, and it will be years before the young plant intended to replace it can attain to any considerable size.

At the south-east end of the churchyard is the burial-place of the family of the Lords of the Manor, the Earls of Carysfort. Adjoining the east end of the chancel lie the remains of the Bishop of Colombo, and

* “. . . . A spot of holy ground,
Where from distress a refuge may be found,
And solitude prepare the soul for Heaven.”

Wordsworth.



Saxon Memorial Stones.

some of his children. Some three or four tombs, enclosed by iron railings, commemorate departed worthies of the parish. An air of neatness pervades the sacred spot; how preferable in its quiet simplicity to the crowded cemeteries which the teeming population of our towns has rendered inevitable at the present day!

The following inscriptions are of interest.

On two flat marble slabs, at the foot of a white marble Latin cross, enclosed within a railing, round which is a flower border, at the south-east end of the chancel:

Sacred
to the memory of
Granville Leveson Proby
4th Earl of Carysfort
Born September 14th 1825
died at Florence May 18th 1872
Aged 46
Buried here May 30, 1872.

“Abide with us, for it is towards
evening, and the day is far spent.”

Also
To the Memory of
Lady Augusta Maria Hare
Countess of Carysfort
Eldest daughter of William 2nd
Earl of Listowel
Born May 31, 1832, died in London
March 24, 1881, aged 48 years
and
buried here March 29, 1881.

Sacred to the Memory of
The Lady Fanny Proby.
On the 15th day of May 1863
She was called from a life of pain and sickness
to live where pain and suffering are unknown.
They whose days she here gladdened have
placed this stone over her mortal remains
Weeping their own loss rejoicing in her gain.

THE HISTORY OF ELTON.

By the side of the daughter he loved so well
 rest the mortal remains of
 Granville Levison Proby 3rd Earl of Carysfort
 who died . . . 3, 1868
 aged 86 years.

“O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in Thee.

“Righteousness shall go before Him; and shall set us in the way of his steps.”

Psalms 84 and 85, verses 12 and 13.

Near the foot of the Carysfort tombs, beneath a cross :

In memory of
 Lord Claud Hamilton
 Born July 27, 1813. Died June 3, 1884.

Post tenebras lux
 In luce spes
 In obitu pax
 Post obitum salus.

The enclosure of Bishop Claughton's burial-place is formed on three sides by iron palisades, and on the fourth by the eastern end of the chancel wall. Within it on a marble cross is the inscription :

In memory of
 Piers Calveley
 Claughton
 Late Bishop of Colombo
 Formerly Rector of this Parish
 Died 11 Augt. 1884
 Aged 70 years.

There are also within the enclosure two small stones, bearing respectively these memorials :

T. C.
 1847.

Caroline Edith
 Claughton
 Died March 14, 1858
 aged 13 months.

The remains of the late Rector, Archdeacon Kempthorne, lie near those of his sister at the north-east corner of the churchyard. A handsome cross of Ketton stone has lately been placed at the head of his grave, inscribed :

Here rests in the Lord
Richard Kempthorne
28 years Rector
Born 3 November 1804
Died 24 October 1888.

For many years there has been a resident Wesleyan Minister in Elton, and one of good repute is buried in the churchyard at the west end under a flat stone, upon which there is a cross in relief, the whole enclosed by iron palisades. The inscription is :

In memory of the Reverend Isaac Aldom, Wesleyan
Minister, who died April 29, 1859, aged 69 years.

“Unto you therefore which believe He is precious.”

Also of Elizabeth, Relict of Isaac Aldom, who died
April 11th 1875, aged 78 years.

“There the weary are at rest.”

“Under the shadow of Thy cross I rest.” These words are engraved upon a Latin cross, stepped at the base :

In loving memory of
Rebecca
Widow of James Ellis
born May 29, 1801
died Jan. 15, 1855.
To fall asleep is not to die.
To dwell with Christ is better life.

Upon a massive body stone of polished granite is the simple record :

John Laurance
born 2 Augt. 1808
died 22 May 1888.

Upon the death of Mr. Laurance, a bier for the use of the parishioners was provided as a mark of respect and regard; an uncommon and useful memorial. This is preserved within the church, and is always in request at funerals.

Of the remaining numerous memorial stones, we select only two or three.

One to Jane Goodwin, who died January 30, 1870, aged 92 :

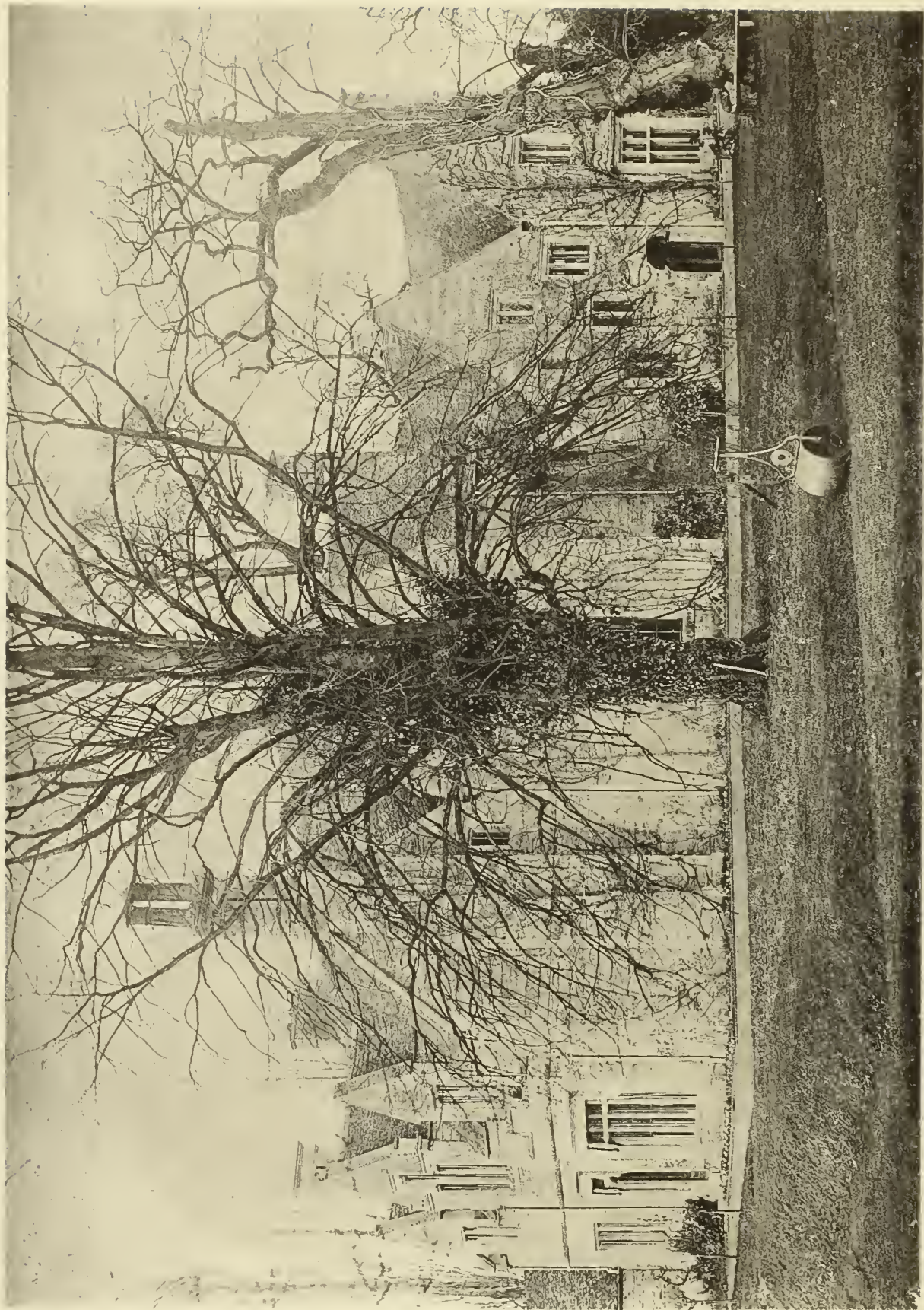
Under total loss of eyesight in old age
She often thanked God for a Grant from
Heatherington's Charity to the Blind.
"Whereas I was blind, now I see."—S. John, ix. 25.

In a large enclosure a central four-sided stone records several members of the family of Peach, one of whom died in his ninety-fourth year.

Another commemorates :

William son of
the late Rev. Thomas Willan
Vicar of Corby cum Irtham
born Jany. 1, 1865
died May 13, 1882.

There are stones in memory of the families of Morton, Adson, Hayes, Franklin, Selby, Dexter, Dempsey, Weldon, Godwin, Plowright, Kirkby, Deer, and many others, of whom no descendants now remain in Elton.



Elton Rectory.

CHAPTER V.

THE RECTORY AND THE RECTORS.

THE Rectory House stands in the lower part of the village, about half a mile from the church, and a quarter of a mile from the river. It is of considerable size (Faber called it "a great Anglican parsonage"), built of grey stone—Barnack and Ketton in the older parts, Sutton in the later additions. The structure is picturesque, being formed with bold gables, above which the characteristic Northamptonshire chimneys are conspicuous features. The centre of the building is the oldest part, and is probably Elizabethan, and it was in the staircase windows, which are still unaltered in their masonry, that the armorial bearings from Fotheringhay were inserted when that castle was demolished at the close of the reign of James I. This portion of the house now connects the library, as arranged by Faber, with the old wainscoted dining-room, and the drawing room, the work of Bishop Claughton. A bold Tudor gateway, leading to the offices, was brought from Warmington, and placed in its present position by Rector Claughton. In the time of Dr. Fisher a very large tithe-barn stood near the present entrance gates, along the wall adjoining the road. This was removed in 1843, and the material used in the wall of the kitchen garden, and in raising that on the east of the pleasure ground. The stables, which Faber proposed to convert into almshouses, bear the date 1826.

This notable old Rectory is surrounded by a goodly number of well-grown trees, among which horse-chestnuts and elms are most conspicuous. A noble plane stands in the field below the garden, and there also are limes, elms, and sycamores. A cedar on the lawn now growing into beauty was planted by F. W. Faber forty-eight years ago. At the same time several clumps of trees and shrubs were planted between the house and the river; gravelled paths leading to these plantations afforded pleasant walks to which the parishioners were admitted. These unfortunately have all been destroyed; so also have twelve trees planted by Faber, and called by him by the names of the twelve Apostles. They were removed, it is said, at the time of the sale of his effects after his departure from the parish. One, which had been

replanted in a garden on Pottle Green, remained there for a short time, but was afterwards removed or died.

It adds much to the comfort and healthfulness of the inmates of the Rectory that it stands upon a deep bed of good gravel—a compensation for its proximity to the river, which might otherwise be prejudicial.

LIST OF RECTORS SINCE THE YEAR 1462.*

- 1462. Tho. Maunchett.
- 1462, Oct. 12. John Lylford (Ramsey Ab. Patn.).
- 1465, April 13. Mr. Tho. Toby (*ibidem*).
- 1467, Sept. 20. Mr. Will. Banke (*ib.*), died 1488.
- 1488, July 30. Mr. Ric. Skipton (*ib.*).
- 1494. Mr. Roger Wood, A.M. (*ib.*).
- 1508, Sept. 17. Ric. Pollet, LL.D. (*ib.*).
- 1510, June 25. Mr Will. Oldham (R.), died the same year.
- 1510, July 18. Mr. Peter Burnell (R.).†
- 1534. Brereton, S.T.P.
- 1552. Thomas Willan.
- 1561. Richard Stephenson.
- 1563. William Dickenson.
- 1629. John Cooper.
- 1661. Thomas Ball, A.B.
- 1708. Thomas Ball, S.T.P.
- 1723. Richard Cumberland.
- 1731. Samuel Ball, LL.B.‡
- 1737. John Ball.
- 1738. John Forster, S.T.P.
- 1787. Philip Fisher, D.D.
- 1842. Piers Calveley Claughton, D.D.
- 1843. Fred. Wm. Faber, M.A.
- 1845. Piers C. Claughton, D.D. (second time).
- 1860. Richard Kempthorne, M.A.
- 1889. Rose Fuller Whistler, M.A.

Of the Rectors of Elton it may be remarked that few country parishes shew a more noteworthy catalogue. It will be said, perhaps, that this is in a great measure owing to the vesting of the patronage in an Oxford College of good repute, and this is, to a certain extent, true; but other good and able men preceded the worthies thus appointed,

* There was also a chauntry priest who is thus mentioned: "Aylton. Cantaria. Robtus Andrewe Cantarest' ib'm. Valet in proficiscis prevenien' de cantariu' ib'm vz in pecuniis num'as de mag'ro collegii de Foderingay per an'm 6 12 4."

† For these particulars thanks are due to the Rev. W. D. Sweeting, Vicar of Maxey, who supplied them after researches in the Lincoln Registry.

‡ Afterwards LL.D.

“vixere fortes ante Agamemnona multi.” Possibly an old Puritan divine, one who vacated his Rectory rather than subscribe to the Act of Uniformity, may be considered, if not the most learned Rector, yet the greatest benefactor to his parish; and there were others of mark, good and able men, before the responsibility of the appointment rested with University College. But whether the patronage was in private hands, or in the semi-public disposal of the College, the result has been satisfactory, and for the last three hundred years it must be admitted that under no other system of appointment could a better series of Rectors, on the whole, have been selected.

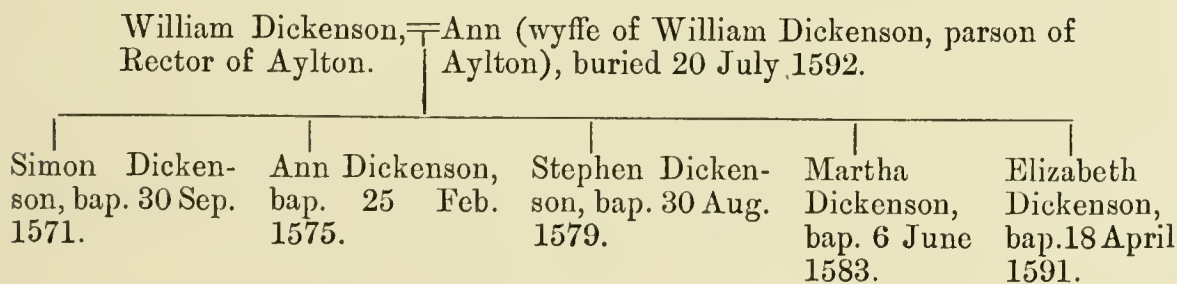
Of Dr. Brereton, the tenth on the list, we have no particulars further than that he was a man of good degree (S.T.P.), and that he either died or resigned in 1534. Probably he was a member of the Norfolk family of the same name, who in the present day are largely identified with the cause of middle-class education in that county, and of which many worthy incumbents have served the Church in their generation.

Of his immediate successor, Thomas Willan, nothing further is on record, excepting the date of his departure, 1552. It is, however, a remarkable coincidence, if nothing more, that an individual of the same surname, the son of the Rev. Thomas Willan, Vicar of Corby cum Irtham, spent his last days in Elton, and was buried, in 1882, in Elton churchyard.

Richard Stephenson, who died in 1561, is also in other respects unrecorded.

Of William Dickenson, the next in order, we find frequent traces. For many years his name and the names of members of his family occur in the Parish Registers, and with this peculiarity, that wherever we meet with them the eye falls at once upon the several entries, which are always larger than others, and in old English characters. His tenure of the living was a long one, extending from 1563 to 1614. He was the transcriber of some of the earlier entries, if not of all, until in due course his own burial is thus noticed: “Mr William Dickenson parson of this Parish of Aylton was buried att Oundle upon Thursdaie the xxviith daie of Julie and when he had been parson 50 years and upwards.”

The Register Books furnish the following brief pedigree:—



After one other entry of the name, "7 Sep. 1595 bap. the daughter of John Dickenson named Ann," the family disappears from the parish.

The Rev. John Cooper, Founder of Cooper's Hospital, was Rector from 1629 to 1661. The first mention of the family is an entry in the register of the baptism of his eldest daughter Dorothy, baptized 1628, followed by that of his eldest son, also John, on the 23rd May 1630. These are soon succeeded by that of the burial of his wife, "Mrs. Dorothy Cooper," on the 17th March 1636, and those of other descendants. He is mentioned in Calamy's "Nonconformists' Memorial" as "Patron of the valuable Parsonage (Elton), which he held till 1662 (*sic*), when, being unable to keep it himself on account of the new terms of conformity, he gave it Mr. Ball, who married his daughter, the son of the worthy Mr. Ball, of Northampton. Mr. Cooper was a grave, venerable person of the Puritan stamp, and a man of great note in this country for the piety of his life, the prudence of his conduct, and his ministerial abilities."

In his scheme for the foundation of the Almshouses he tells us that he was descended from the family of the Coopers of Lancashire. Beyond that we know nothing of his forefathers. He appears to have settled at Elton before his appointment to the living,* and after his resignation to have resided with his son-in-law at the Rectory until his death, which happened in March 1664. He was buried at Elton, and though no stone marks his grave, his memory will ever be green in the parish which has so largely benefited by his bounty. "His body is buried in peace, but his name liveth for evermore."

The entry of his burial is suggestive of the appreciation of his worth by his late parishioners: "1664. The Right Reverend Mr Cooper the late most charitable and pious pastour of this Parish was buried March 13th."

Thomas Ball, who married one of the coheiresses of John Cooper, succeeded to the Rectory of Elton on the deprivation of his father-in-law, and held it for about forty-seven years, from 1661 to 1708. He was a Doctor of Divinity, and the donor of the communion plate which bears the inscription: "Ex dono Thomæ Ball, Rectoris de Aylton, 1670." About the year 1678 he (with Sir Edward Turner) found a horse under the Militia Act. He was buried at Elton.

Thomas Ball, D.D., son of the above-named Thomas Ball, succeeded his father as Rector in 1708, and died in 1722, aged fifty-five years. He married the eldest daughter of the Right Rev. Richard Cumberland, Bishop of Peterborough, by whom he was made a Prebendary of that Cathedral. He was also Rector of Gretford in the county of Lincoln,

* From the fact of his eldest daughter having been born in 1628.

and a Justice of the Peace for the county of Huntingdon. His burial is thus recorded: "1722. The Rev. Thos: Ball D.D. late Rector of this Parish Feb. 16, 17 $\frac{22}{3}$, buried." His body lies within the chancel rails, under a black marble slab, on which the particulars here given are recorded.

To Dr. Ball succeeded his nephew Richard Cumberland in 1723. He vacated the living in 1731, and as there is no mention of his burial at Elton, the conjecture of Sweeting that he was promoted to be Bishop of Clonfert and Kilmore may be correct.

Another member of the Ball family was the next Rector, but only for six years. The Rev. Samuel Ball, LL.D., with his young wife Anne, both died young, and were buried near their relatives within the chancel. He was thirty-two, and she but twenty-seven.

Of John Ball, the last member of this family who were Rectors for rather more than a hundred years, we only know that he was instituted in 1737, and resigned in the following year. The advowson was then soon afterwards sold, during the incumbency of Dr. Forster, to University College, Oxford, who were the Patrons of Elton from 1760 to 1884, when it passed by purchase, with the consent of the Land Commissioners of England, to Mrs. Augusta Whistler, elder daughter of the late James Watts, Esq., of Battle, in Sussex, to whom it now belongs.

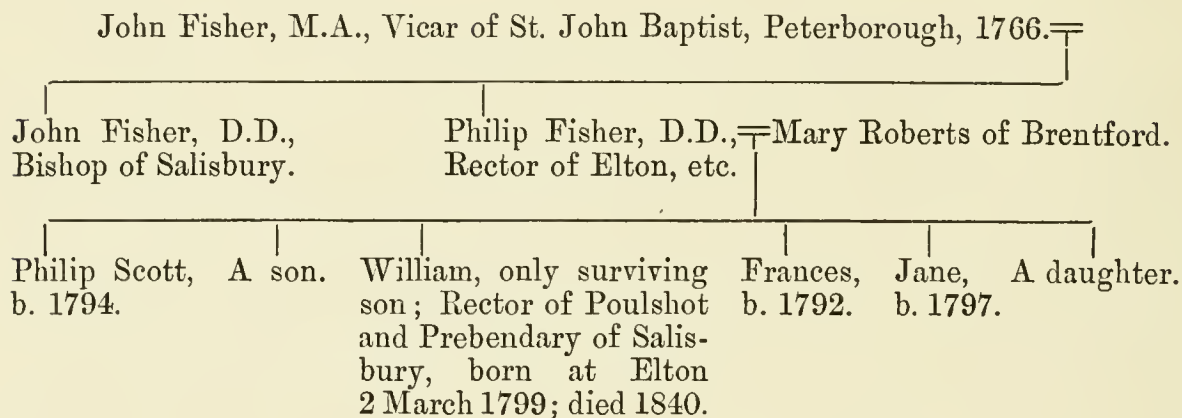
After the purchase of the advowson by University College, it was twenty-five years before they could exercise their right of presentation. During that time Dr. Forster was Rector, who had been instituted in 1738, and served the parish until his death 1787. It is a remarkable fact that between the years 1563 and 1842 there were four Rectors who held the Rectory of Elton between them for no less than 202 years, viz., William Dickenson 51, Dr. Ball 47, Dr. Forster 49, and Dr. Fisher 55.

It appears that Dr. Forster spent the whole time of his ministry, after he was ordained priest, in Elton, having been appointed Rector at the early age of twenty-four. He was buried in the church in February 1787; see the tablet on which he is commemorated. A sermon preached by him in 1764, at the Huntingdon Assizes, is still extant.

The next Rector, who was the first nominee of University College, Oxford, was instituted July 12, 1787, and held the preferment until 1842. From Dr. Bright,* Master of the College, we learn that "he was entered in April 1766 at the early age of fifteen, was elected Fellow in 1770 (being then only nineteen), and from 1773 to 1787 his name always appears as one of the Tutors of the College; in that year it is no longer to be found, no doubt because he took the living of Elton." The Master adds: "He must, however, have been very old." He was the

* See a letter dated March 6, 1890, to the Rev. R. F. Whistler.

second son of John Fisher, Clerk, of Peterborough. The following short pedigree is interesting :—



Dr. Fisher was also Canon of Norwich, and for thirty-eight years Master of the Charterhouse, where he died and was buried. For the first seventeen years of his incumbency his residence at Elton was continuous. After his appointment to the Charterhouse, although he kept the Rectory in his own hands, his visits to his parish were at rare intervals; his family, however, were more often there. For the last twenty-three years of his life the parish was served by a Resident Curate, the Rev. Mr. Symonds, the Doctor only officiating occasionally. He is still remembered by one or two of the oldest inhabitants, and is described by them as tall and thin, scrupulously neat in his attire, very ecclesiastical-looking in shovel hat, knee breeches, and silver-buckled shoes; and this agrees with the portrait of him in possession of the Earl of Carysfort.

Many reminiscences serve to recall not only the man, but also the characteristics of the times in which he lived. Lady Carysfort quotes from a letter of her mother, who remembered the Doctor, that “he was good-natured and easy, and the parish was managed by dear good Mrs. Fisher and the three Miss Fishers, all very excellent and active. I have heard (she writes) Dr. Fisher relate that when a young man he had the honour of taking a *dish of tea* with old Dr. Johnson. Dr. Fisher’s brother was Bishop of Salisbury and Preceptor to the Princess Charlotte. Miss Burney mentions his brother coming with him.”

Her ladyship again quotes from another letter that “the Doctor did not like Elton at all until he got a Canonry at Norwich. He told Lord Carysfort that there were nothing but lords and fox-hunters to speak to. The Miss Fishers were very happy in the parish. The Doctor always took the newspaper up into the reading desk when the Curate preached.”

It is said that a Bishopric was offered to Dr. Fisher, but that on adding together the proceeds of his various preferments, he thought it the better plan to decline the honour.

Dr. Fisher was not unmindful of his parishioners at Elton while absent from them, as the following letter will shew. The Richard Goodwin to whom it was sent was the last of an old local family in the male line, and on the death of his daughter Mrs. Kirkby, the race will become extinct in the parish. He was a carpenter who lived upon his own little property in Chapel Lane; the buildings have been pulled down, and only the orchard remains to shew where the shop and cottage stood.

Norwich, Nov. 29th, 1825.

RICHARD GOODWIN,

In consideration of your long Services I have given you an appointment to the situation of a Pensioner at the Charterhouse. You will find this to be a comfortable retreat in your old age and a compleat provision for you. In order to settle your affairs at Elton, I will allow you to remain there till the 14th of December: but on that day (that is to say on Wednesday the 14th) you must come up to London. I advise you to secure yourself a Place by the Coach called *Truth and Daylight* which passes the Cabin every morning by I believe seven o'clock—but the people at the Cabin will tell you exactly when you must be there. When you get to London tell the Coachman to set you down at the *Three Cups in Aldersgate Street*, and I will have somebody there in waiting to bring you to the Charterhouse. You must remember that you are expected to bring with you two pair of sheets. That is all you require. Of course you will bring with you your wearing Apparel and what money you may be worth. If you have any difficulty in reading this note, or understanding what you are to do, shew it to Mr Cook who will explain it to you.

I am,

Your friend,

PHILIP FISHER.

What an old-world flavour there is about this excellent letter! It takes us back to days before the introduction of railways; we almost see the old man waiting at the cross-ways on the Great North Road, leaving his house and family for the home where he was to end his days, amid the throng of the distant city of which he probably knew only by hearsay. How characteristic also it is of the writer and of the period in which he wrote! Precise and particular, without one needless word, and with every necessary direction. Worthy indeed of one who had been called to preside over that noble foundation, the haven of rest to weary souls of widely different position, from those of whom the grand old Colonel Newcome was a type, to this respectable village carpenter!

It may be interesting to note that the trees, now growing in the garden where Goodwin's house and shop formerly stood, were planted by his wife immediately after her marriage in 1812; the walnut-tree, in its

prime or nearly so, is therefore now (1891) seventy-nine years old, as also are the apple-trees, all originally raised from pips by Mrs. Goodwin; these latter, although not grafted, producing excellent fruit.

He was buried in the Charterhouse Chapel at the east end, and above his grave there is a neat memorial stone divided into two compartments, and bearing the following inscriptions:

Hic prope conjugem dilectissimam
 Qui semper in votis erat
 Conditus est
 Philippus Fisher S.T.P.
 Canonicus Norvicensis
 et per annos xxxviii hujus
 hospitii magister
 Vir amore literarum
 constantia et predestina
 his insignis
 Summis ævi sui viris
 amicitia conjunctus
 In filiorum ingenio studiis
 moribus colendis
 Sollicitus et sagax
 Annos vixit xcii
 Decessit die Januarii
 decimo nono
 Anno Sacro MDCCCXLII
 In alto quiescit
 Gulielmus filius unicus e tribus superstes Patri optimo
 desideratissimo titulus posuit.

Which may be rendered :

Here near his most dearly loved wife
 which was always his desire
 Is buried
 Philip Fisher, Doctor of Divinity,
 Canon of Norwich,
 and for 38 years Master
 of this Hospital.
 A man conspicuous for
 his love of literature,
 constancy and prudence.
 Allied in friendship to
 the greatest men of his age,
 Careful and prudent

in training the intellect of his sons
in learning and morality.

He lived 92 years.

Died 19 January

In the sacred year 1842.

He rests on high (or in the deep, *i.e.* below).

William, the only son out of three who survived
the best and most dearly loved Father,
The inscription has placed.

To Dr. Fisher succeeded Dr. Piers Calvey Claughton, who was twice Rector; in the first instance from 10 June 1842 to February 1843. After an interval of nearly two years, during which Mr. Faber was Incumbent, he was reappointed by University College, and instituted 8 December 1845. He continued Rector until 1860, when, by some arrangement,* Richard Kempthorne, then Archdeacon of St. Helena, took his place, and he was consecrated the first Bishop of St. Helena. Before his departure he signed the Elton Registers as "Piers, St. Helena," which would be his signature as Bishop of that newly formed diocese.

While Rector he promoted many needful alterations and improvements in the church and residence, both of which, owing to the prolonged non-residence of his predecessor, were sadly in need of attention. He began the first restoration of the church, which he found encumbered with a gallery and unsightly inconvenient pews. To the house he made considerable additions, chiefly at the west end, where he entirely built the drawing-room wing. The grounds were no less the objects of his care. He planted largely, and laid them out with taste and judgment. With his parishioners and neighbours he lived on terms of kindly intercourse, and there are many living who look back with grateful satisfaction to their pleasant Sunday walks in the Rectory grounds. He was greatly endeared to his people, among whom some of his happiest days were spent; a conclusion to which we are led by the name he gave to his youngest child (Elton Felix), born as he was about to leave this early home for distant lands, and by his wish to rest at last, as he does, in his old churchyard when his "travelling days were done."

* It is said that Mr. Claughton exchanged the Rectory of Elton for the Archdeaconry of St. Helena, then about to be constituted a Bishopric; and that the College, at the request of their former tutor, consented to this exchange.

He died in London on the 11th August 1884, and from the various public notices which appeared about the time of his death, we are able to gather full particulars of his life and career.

Dr. Claughton was born in 1812, a younger son of the late Thomas Claughton, M.P., of Haydock Lodge, in the county of Lancaster, his mother being the daughter of Thomas Peter Leigh, of Lyme Park, Cheshire. He was educated at Repton School and University College, Oxford, where he took a First Class in 1835. He also gained the prize for the Chancellor's Prize Essay in 1837, the subject of which was "The Concurring Causes which assisted the Promulgation of the Religion of Mahomet." He was elected Fellow and Tutor of his College, Public Examiner and Select Preacher. Ordained in 1837, he was presented to Elton, and there all his children were born. On Whitsun Tuesday, 1859, he was consecrated as Bishop of St. Helena, together with the Bishops of Bangor and Brisbane. The most notable event of his short tenure of that See was the part he took at the Cape Synod in the condemnation of Bishop Colenso. In 1862 he was translated to the See of Colombo, and this he successfully administered for eight years. In 1870 he returned to England, and was soon after appointed Archdeacon of London and Canon of St. Paul's. In 1875 he was nominated, by Lord Cranbrook, Chaplain to the Forces. The multifarious duties now devolving upon him he fulfilled with zeal, ability, and success, taking also a leading part in the debates of Convocation. While thus occupied he was called to his rest in his seventieth year, at Northwick Terrace, in London, and shortly afterwards buried at Elton, where probably the happiest part of his life was passed.

His funeral, the ceremonial of which was impressive and touching, has been thus described :

"The body was removed from Northwick Terrace to St. Paul's a little before ten. The outer coffin of oak, on which was a long Latin cross and the simple inscription 'Piers Calveley Claughton, Bishop, Born Jany. 8, 1814, Died Augt. 11, 1884,' was placed in an open funeral car, and covered with a violet pall and a large number of floral crosses and wreaths. The four sons, Mr. H. W. Claughton, H.M. Inspector of Schools, Captain F. A. C. Claughton, Mr. Charles E. J. Claughton, and Mr. Alan Claughton, accompanied the body to St. Paul's, where they were met by his brother (the Bishop of St. Albans), his son-in-law (Sir John Douglas), his nephew (the Rev. J. R. Whittington, Rector of Orsett), Lord Crewe, Sir Hastings Doyle, the Hon. Mrs. Claughton, several other ladies of the family, and Dr. Humby.

"The body was met at the western door of the Cathedral by the choir and the Bishop of London, the Dean, Canon Gregory, Canon

Liddon, the Archdeacon of Middlesex, Prebendary Harry Jones, Minor Canons Milman, Simpson, and Kelby. As the procession passed through the crowded nave of the Cathedral the opening sentences of the Burial Office were sung. The coffin was placed on tressels, covered with violet cloth, in front of the entrance to the choir. The 90th Psalm having been sung, the Dean read the lesson, after which the hymn 'The sower went forth sowing' was sung. While the body was borne down the nave the Dead March in 'Saul' was played.

"There was a large and, on the whole, reverent crowd outside the western door of the Cathedral when the body was replaced on the funeral car, and conveyed to King's Cross Station for conveyance to Elton. The War Office was represented by Sir R. Thompson, and among the Chaplains to the Forces present were the Revs. C. A. Selbe (Senior Chaplain in Egypt in 1882), R. A. Corbet (Wellington Barracks), and R. Halpin (Chaplain to the Duke of Cambridge). There were also present Canon Ingram, Mr. Currey, Mr. Spottiswoode, and many other well-known clergy and laity. The coffin arrived at Peterborough at three o'clock, and from thence was conveyed by road to Elton, a distance of nine miles. The service there was conducted by Archdeacon Kempthorne, assisted by Mr. Gibbs. The village choir headed the procession. The grave was thickly strewn with flowers, many contributions being made by the parishioners, by whom their old Rector was always held in the greatest respect."

Preaching at St. Paul's on the following Sunday, Canon Liddon thus referred to the late Bishop: "When he could do no more, he lifted his hands as far as his failing strength allowed, and exclaimed to those who felt that he was taking leave of them, 'Sursum corda.'"

"Bishop Claughton occupied a position in this Cathedral and in this Diocese which could not but make his death an event of importance in the Church; but, in addition to the duties thus devolving upon him, he had, during the last nine years of his life, discharged others of far greater consequence. No Archdeaconry or Canonry in the country—perhaps only a few Sees—can compare, in respect of their spiritual opportunities, with the great position of Chaplain-General of the Forces. Its occupant has, as his flock, men of all ranks and ages of life, belonging to a profession which perhaps more than any other suggests the precarious nature of our earthly existence. And thus, despite the great dangers, morally speaking, of a soldier's life, he is often beyond other men alive to the claims and importance of religion. Ever since the days of the Centurion Cornelius, God has had some of His most faithful servants in the ranks of the army; and in all ages of Christianity, Peter has had his work in the army too—a work which for its variety and vastness of opportunity is well nigh unrivalled

in the whole field of the Church. Those who watched the manner of life which the late Bishop led must often have feared that he had undertaken duties beyond the strength of any one man ; it is hardly doubtful that he shortened his days by the strenuous effort to discharge them worthily. To appreciate what he did in this great sphere of exertion would be quite impossible for one who only looked on from a distance ; but any man's associates may venture to say not what is, but what has appeared to them to be the leading features in his character and disposition. Doubtless a human character is far too complex a thing to warrant us in pronouncing decisively that this or that is its dominant or most conspicuous attribute ; those, for instance, who know a man intimately may form a different conclusion from that of those who knew him only as an acquaintance. Speaking then with all needful reservations, I should point to Bishop Claughton's habitual serenity as his most striking characteristic. Serenity is not an ordinary excellence ; it is a great and even a sublime endowment, and in certain circumstances it implies a great deal beyond itself.

“Bishop Claughton had presided over two Colonial Dioceses, and had then returned to England with the authority and experience of high office, when he found himself a member of the Chapter of St. Paul's. He then entered a body in which of course he could not preside, and composed of men one half of whom were considerably his juniors in age, while all of them were of a lower order than his own in the Christian ministry. He entered it in stirring times, and to find that questions of public religious interest were discussed in terms of perfect equality. In such a body wide differences of judgment are occasionally inevitable, and the conclusions arrived at are, from time to time, unwelcome to each of its members in turn.

“Bishop Claughton's character revealed itself in the unruffled temper with which he discussed subjects on which he felt strongly, and listened to opinions from which he altogether dissented, and accepted decisions which he had felt it his duty to dispute. It was not the calm of indifference or torpor, for he was certainly a man of strong feelings and opinions : it was the serenity of a man who has temper, impulse, passion, well in hand, who is in the deepest sense of the phrase *his own master* ; who is not to be surprised into violence, or forced into sulkiness, by unforeseen opposition, or disappointment, or defeat ; who looks beyond what is passing to the alone Unchangeable, and beyond human wills to the All Holy and All Controlling. Bishop Claughton was strong enough to be always patient, always considerate, always courteous ; and this strength is not of human origin—it is an endowment of Divine grace : ‘Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee.’

Doubtless that was the meaning of his dying ‘*Sursum corda.*’ In the last moments of life, as during his years of work, he still looked upwards for the strength which had made him the humble-minded Christian, the active worker, the kindly and courteous gentleman, whom his colleagues will long remember with affection and respect.

“As our eyes rest on that stall, for twelve years or more associated with his familiar presence, or on this pulpit which he has so often filled, let us reflect that last Sunday he was still lingering among us, while now he has entered upon that wonderful world towards the gate of which we are all hourly hastening. Close indeed together are the two lives—this in time, that in Eternity. Little can it matter to those who have passed the barrier what measure of praise or blame is awarded them by the erring judgment of those whom they have left behind: they know already what it is to be judged by Him who sees us as we are. But for this surely they must be anxious: that we in our remaining days of probation and grace should be sure that the old-loving kindnesses of God are as real and as operative as ever; that the Cross of Jesus Christ is still the hope and refuge of sinners; and that in the Church of Jesus Christ there is still pardon for the penitent, and strength and encouragement and joy and peace for those who would have them. And if it be so, what do other things in life seriously matter? ‘Although the fig-tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines, the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat: the flocks shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stall; yet will I rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.’ ”

Another writer (an intimate and very old friend) says: “Bishop Claughton was never a close student, therefore not a finished scholar, nor a man of deep learning, or of literary grace. His gifts were other, and for his duties and calling more useful. His logical gift was considerable, and his judgment ordinarily very sound. That which informed it, and gave to his mind and character their attractiveness and value, was the clear moral perception which, springing from and ripened by his unsullied purity and love of truth and singleness of heart, grew from an instinct into a faculty, which, interpreted by a most kindly nature, obtained a consideration which mere intellectual or learned efficacy cannot command. His was a character which a little incident may illustrate. Such natures always overflow in their kindness to domestic animals. His always did. Pigeons were his especial pets, not as what is understood as a pigeon fancier, but as one who loved their ways and made close friends of them. All through his wide wanderings some descendants of the Elton dovecot were with him, and were settled with him in his London home when he breathed his last. He died surrounded

by his sons and daughters, and tended by a devoted wife ; and those who knew him best will affectionately remember his tender, loving, Christian spirit, and his pure, unselfish, dutiful life."

Bishop Claughton was the author of "A Brief Comparison of the Thirty-nine Articles of the Church of England with Holy Scripture," 8vo, 1843. There is also a published sermon, entitled "The Gospel Invitation," among the Westminster Abbey Sermons for the Working Classes, "preached by Piers C. Claughton, D.D., Bishop of St. Helena, July 3, 1859," carefully preserved by one of his old parishioners, Mrs. Spencer, of Elton.

On 16 December 1885 a memorial of the late Bishop Claughton, the result of public subscription, was placed in the crypt of St. Paul's Cathedral. It consists of a medallion bust in the highest relief, set in a richly carved frame of alabaster. The bust is an excellent likeness of the late prelate.

The inscription is cut upon a black marble slab let into the alabaster, and is as follows :

Piers Calveley Claughton, D.D.
Born June 8, 1814. Died Augt. 11, 1884.
Archdeacon of London
Assistant Bishop in this Diocese
Chaplain General of Her Majesty's Forces
Bishop of Saint Helena 1859 to 1867
Bishop of Colombo 1867 to 1872.

"We were gentle among you."—1 Thes. xi. 7.

This Memorial was erected by Friends who cherished his memory.

The memorial was designed by Sir A. W. Blomfield.

Frederic William Faber, who was Rector of Elton for the short interval between the two Incumbencies of Dr. Claughton, is probably more generally known as Father Faber. He is remembered by his Elton parishioners as one who brought new life into the parish, but not without causing anguish to many whose "homes were left unto them desolate" when members of their families accompanied him, in his hasty departure, on his secession to the Church of Rome.

His residence in Elton appears to have been continuous and practically unbroken by absence from October 9, 1843, to September 21, 1845, these being the dates of the first and last baptisms solemnized by him. Between these periods there is no break; the number of children whom he baptized is noteworthy, as there were no less than sixty-four baptisms in the year and eleven months during which he officiated. The population of Elton was then 844, and in each case the child baptized was a parishioner.

Faber's career was remarkable. His name will probably be remembered long after that of others who were in many respects his superiors. It appears indeed to be a fact that, while by far the larger number of talented individuals live and die comparatively unknown beyond the limited area in which they dwell, wider notoriety is the lot of those who, with no greater ability, swerve from the beaten course, and by their aberration attract particular observation. So it seems to have been with Faber. In any walk of life he would probably have been widely known for the sweetness and spirituality of his hymns, his power of attracting others to himself, his numerous writings and general intellectual acquirements; at the same time it may be questioned whether he would have attained to the degree of fame which has survived him had he lived the quiet retired life of a country Rector, passing his days in that useful obscurity which is the lot of many of equal parts and ability. His acceptance of preferment in the Church of England, while his heart was with that of Rome, rendered him notorious in the first instance, and gave greater publicity to his subsequent public perversion. For that he was throughout his Rectorate of doubtful loyalty to the Church of England, hoping perhaps against hope that with time his perplexity would pass away, his own words testify. In 1843 he writes: "I grow more Roman every day." (It must be remembered that he "read himself in" at Elton in April of that year.) His biographer* tells us that in the same year "He said he saw then that he must within three years either be a Catholic or lose his mind." Again,† before the commencement of his parochial work he says: "I have been very much altered since I came abroad this

* Life, by Bowden, page 168.

† Page 177.

time, but I am *very, very, very* Roman. I have learnt an immense deal both outwardly and inwardly, and I hope it will lead to something more than feelings."

These quotations leave indeed very little room for doubt that, from the time of his taking up his residence at Elton, Faber's predilections were towards the Church of Rome. But, if any question as to his inner feelings could still be entertained, the following remark of Father Bowden would appear to be conclusive: "It must be remembered that at this time the idea of conversion (that is from the English to the Romish Church) was not familiar to the minds of Anglicans. Their greatest leader (J. H. Newman) was living in seclusion at Littlemore, as yet uncertain what course it would be his duty to pursue; the delay which he had imposed upon himself he also recommended to those who sought his counsel, and *it was in deference to his judgment that Mr. Faber remained for two years longer in the Anglican Communion;*" that is, during the time that he was ministering at Elton.

While there, however, his work was constant, earnest, and effective. He revolutionized the parish, which, with the brief exception of Bishop Claughton's first Incumbency, had for many years been languishing under a non-resident Rector. New life seemed to pervade the place. Crowded congregations attended upon his ministry. The Rectory and its grounds were the centres of religious teaching and social energy. Nor were the material needs of the parish neglected. More work was undertaken in the church in the way of restoration; the oak pulpit still in use was provided. Faber's autograph inscription in all the Service books remains to shew that they were an Advent offering in 1843 from the new Rector. Young men especially resorted to his teaching, and came under the influence of that remarkable fascination* of which he was conscious, and of which indeed he himself makes particular mention.† The income of his Rectory was large, but it proved insufficient for his requirements. "He spent and was spent" for the benefit of his parishioners. He began to convert the stables into almshouses, his study into an oratory. Suddenly, in the midst of his activity and plans, the storm burst, and thus the end came.

* So Shakespear:

"Such a holy witch
That he enchants societies unto him,
Half all men's hearts are his."

Cymbeline.

† August 29, 1835, he writes: "God has given me a peculiar, and to my mind a very peculiar talent, at first sight alien to my character, of attaching people to myself. I was first struck by it one day when Y——, soon after his conversion, was indulging in expressions of affection for me. He quoted a speech which P—— had made use of at Harrow, 'I cannot tell why it is, but that Faber fascinates everybody.'"

There are some still living (1892) who love to relate how, on Sunday the 16th November 1845, he was preaching in his church, as usual well filled, from the text Ruth i. 16, 17, when an impulse, apparently irresistible, impelled him to interrupt his discourse, and to declare "that the doctrines he had taught from that pulpit, though true, were not those of the Church of England; that as far as the Church of England had a voice she had disavowed them, and that consequently he could not remain in her Communion, but must go where truth was to be found."* He then hastily descended from the pulpit, threw his surplice to the ground, and quitted the church. The astonished congregation remained amazed and bewildered, and communed with each other as to what the end of all this would be.

No persuasion could prevail with him to reconsider the determination he had formed to seek reception into the Church of Rome. On the following morning he left Elton, never to return. He was accompanied by seven of his parishioners and his two servants, all of whom had been associated with him in his plans and labours. The party betook themselves to Northampton, and there his severance from the Church of his fathers was completed.

Faber came of a refugee family which sought an asylum in England on the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes. He was the seventh child of Thomas Henry Faber, Secretary to Dr. Barrington, Bishop of Durham. He was born 28 June 1814 at Calverley Vicarage, Yorkshire, the home of his grandfather, the Incumbent there. When very young he was sent to the Grammar School at Bishop Auckland, and afterwards successively to Shrewsbury and Harrow. In 1832 he was entered at Balliol, where he went into residence during the Lent term of 1833. Towards the end of 1834 he was elected to a scholarship at University, and then migrated in consequence to that College. He gained the Newdigate in 1836, being the successful candidate out of thirty-seven. In the following November he took his B.A. degree, second class in lit. hum., being prevented by illness from doing full justice to his abilities. In January 1837 he gained the Johnson Divinity Scholarship, and was elected a Fellow of University College. He was ordained Deacon at Ripon, 6 August 1837, and Priest at Oxford, by Dr. Bagot, 26 May 1839. Under the name of Brother Wilfred he received the Diaconate in the Romish Church at Derby, 20 March 1847, and the Priesthood soon after. After much active work at Birmingham and in London, he removed on the 1st of March 1854 to the Oratory at Brompton. This was his last home. Frequent and severe illness interrupted his work there; nevertheless, upon him, as

* Life, by Bowden, page 201.

Superior, the control of that establishment depended, and with his name its early history is identified. His health failed during his remaining years; violent headaches were frequent, sciatica tormented him. He writes: "I am very unwell from sleepless nights, neuralgia in the head, and fits of sickness." Under alternations of illness and comparative recovery, it was at length evident that the mysterious malady called "Bright's Disease" had fixed itself upon him. After much suffering, patiently endured, he passed away calmly on the 26th of September 1863. He was buried on the 30th at St. Mary's, Sydenham, "where," says his biographer, "his grave had been prepared at the foot of the cross of its consecration; and there, with the conviction that they would never look upon his like again, his sorrowing children left him."

Faber was a voluminous writer. His published works which were composed at Elton are naturally of the greatest interest to his old parishioners who still survive. His *Lives of the Saints* were some of them written there, namely, those of St. Wilfred, St. Paulinus, St. Edwin, and St. Oswald; but they value most "Sir Launcelot," a poem in ten books, which, with several minor poems, he collected into one volume and published with the purpose of applying the proceeds to the repairs of Elton Church.

The bells of Elton are known far and wide for the sweetness of their tone. To the Rectory, distant about half a mile from the church, their sound comes floating down on the wind,* and we can realize that what has been suggested was the fact, viz., that the words of a well-known hymn were suggested to the poet divine as he mused in the walks of his venerable home.

To this period we may refer the production of at least many of those spiritual songs, the use of which is so general—we can seldom use them at Elton without a sorrowful recollection of their author! To Faber belongs the honour of having composed, not only perhaps the most cosmopolitan of contemporary hymns—"Hark, hark, my soul!"—from which we have quoted,† but many others also which all shades of religionists delight to sing. Such are those beginning "Jesu, gentlest Saviour," "O Paradise, O Paradise," "O come and mourn with me awhile," "My God, how wonderful Thou art," "Sweet Saviour, bless us ere we go," "Angels of Jesus," and others of similar character.

* Compare Cowper, "The Task," page 152 :

"How soft the music of those village bells,
Falling at intervals upon the ear,
In cadence sweet, now dying all away,
Now pealing loud again, and louder still,
Clear and sonorous, as the gale comes on!"

† See page 28.

Of Faber it was said by Wordsworth, who visited him at his Rectory, "If it were not for Frederick Faber's devoting himself so much to his sacred calling, he would be the poet of the age."

At Elton he began his translation of the "Life of St. Philip Neri." Of his other works that which is best known, which still commands a ready sale, and upon which his fame as a prose author mainly rests, is "All for Jesus." It was published in 1853, and passed rapidly through several editions. It has been translated into French, and more than forty thousand copies have been sold. In other countries also, not only this, but other works of his have been adapted and welcomed. Speaking of them collectively, the words of the Abbot of Solesmes* are very striking: "There is not a page of Father Faber, whether it be severe or sparkling, in which we do not discover the saint, the man who never wrote a single line to put forward or recommend himself."

To this brief sketch of our Rector's life we may add testimonies to his eminent qualities, gathered from contemporaries of high repute, both at home and in America. Cardinal Newman, for instance, speaks of "his remarkable gifts, his poetical fancy, his engaging frankness, his playful wit, his affectionateness, his sensitive piety." Dr. Pusey says, "His memory I cherish, and from him I thankfully own that I have learned much," and, in another place, mentions "the well-deserved influence which he gained through the rich variety of natural and spiritual gifts with which God endowed him." A writer in the *Dublin Review* quotes "an American ecclesiastic of eminence" who writes: "If the power to convey to others the most sublime, and at the same time the most practical truths that can interest the human mind, be a title to the homage of men, then has Father Faber established for himself a claim which no length of years nor change of circumstances can efface." Afterwards speaking for himself (with perhaps the inflated panegyric of a favourable reviewer), he says "that in 'The Creator and the Creature' there are chapters which re-echo in our day the sweetness of St. Bernard, the wit and erudition of St. Jerome, the eloquence of St. John Chrysostom, the philosophy of St. Augustine." That his hymns are very highly valued in the United States we are thus assured (*Dublin Review*, xiv., page 115): "They are a legacy to the most precious portion of the Universal Church, the little ones of the flock of Christ. Who can call to mind that they are sung by the banks of the Potomac and the Ohio, in the plains of Minnesota and the valleys of California, with the same fervour as in the towns and villages of our own land, and not confess that if he had bequeathed to his brethren no other gift, Father Faber would deserve to rank as one of our true benefactors?"

* Quoted by Bowden from *Le Monde*, 13 January 1864.

A portrait of Faber taken while he was at Elton by Webb, one of his domestics, although the rude work of an unskilled amateur, may serve to give an idea of his personal appearance at that period, and it is very different from that introduced in later years as the frontispiece of his life by Bowden. It represents a tall, rather slight figure, robed in surplice and stole, and wearing bands, the face long and oval, the hair black, abundant, and inclined to curl, the nose large and slightly aquiline, mouth and chin suggestive of benevolence, but wanting in firmness. The eyes are dark grey, the eyebrows arched. There are no whiskers.

And this agrees fairly well with the description of him given by his brother, who writes : “ Those who knew him in youth will remember him as eminently handsome, and of a slight, lithe figure. Such he still was in 1845, but when he paid me a visit four years after, all the *gracilis puer* had departed. The identity was gone. Nothing could mar the beauty of his countenance, yet his augmenting bulk prevented any recollection of ‘ Faber of University.’ This increased as life went on, and perhaps was connected with the disease which proved fatal to him at the age of forty-nine.”

Such was Faber, a Rector whose memory will live in Elton, and of whom the inhabitants even now say—

“ Take him for all in all,
We ne’er shall look upon his like again.”

The verses addressed to him by Father E. J. Saurin, of Baltimore, will commend themselves to many :

“ Some angel, such as mercy sends to win
All hearts to love, most surely was thy guest,
Thy thoughts, thy words inspired : his fragrant wings
In rapture waved o’er thee and thine abode,
Friend of the weary heart in search of God !
As ’mid life’s glittering waste, like joyous springs,
Thy works came forth. Men own the treasure given,
Bless thee and God : and journey on to Heaven.”

It will be interesting to preserve the names of those who left Elton with Father Faber, or followed him soon after his departure, with such brief notice of their subsequent career as, at this interval of forty-six years, we can ascertain.

Inside the “ heavily laden fly,” which left Elton on a cold November morning, were F. W. Faber, Francis Knox, Anne Godwin, Thomas Godwin ; outside with the driver was George Hawkes.

The others, who left the parish on the same day, walked to Oundle, then the nearest railway station; their names were William Pitts, James Pitts, William Webb, and John Strickson.

Later on several others followed, viz., William Rusher, John Stevens, John Deer, John Hippey, Vincent Page; sometime afterwards, J. S. Adson and Charles Fenn.

Of these, Francis Knox became an Oratorian, and finished his career at Brompton.

Georges Hawkes came to Elton to take charge of the toll gate then standing at Overend on the Oundle Road, and afterwards entered the Rector's service. He then became a lay helper in the parish, and was not without hope that he might eventually be ordained. After his perversion he became a clerk at the London Works at Birmingham. There he married Anne Godwin; two children were born to them, one of whom is buried at Elton. They both died in Birmingham, members of the Romanist Church.

William and James Pitts also continued steadfast in the faith to which they had seceded; the former is now living (1892), and acts as organist at the Brompton Oratory; the latter, who was the leading treble singer in the Elton choir, is, it is believed, still alive. These brothers were the sons of an organ-builder at Warmington, and their secession was the source of much grief to their father. He followed them to Birmingham, and persistently sought an interview there with Father Faber, with whom he remonstrated bitterly on having used his influence over them, "persuading them," he said, "to break the fifth commandment."

John Strickson, as Brother Chad, lived and died at Brompton.

William Rusher, living in 1891, is an optician in London.

John Stephens, lived when at Elton in "The Island," afterwards he he went to Brighton.

John Deer and John Hippey both went to Birmingham, where they found employment at Messrs. Hardman's Glass Works. The latter was living and paid a long visit to Elton in 1891.

Vincent Page is believed to be still alive, and in Canada.

Charles Fenn and J. S. Adson both returned to Elton and to the Church of England, in which the latter is now a regular communicant, a member of the choir, and churchwarden.

Richard Kempthorne, Rector from 1860 to 1888, was of St. John's College, Cambridge, where he graduated B.A., as twenty-seventh Wrangler, and Second Class in the Classical Tripos in 1827. He proceeded to the degree of M.A. in 1834, was ordained Deacon by the Bishop of Lichfield in 1828, and Priest in the same year by the Bishop of Chester; and in that diocese he served as Curate of Tarvin in the county of Cheshire.

After an interval of ten years he was appointed Archdeacon of St. Helena and Colonial Chaplain, a position which he occupied from 1839 to 1860.

Upon the appointment of Bishop Claughton to the Bishopric of St. Helena, he was instituted as his successor in the Rectory of Elton, on the nomination of University College, Oxford—probably at the solicitation of Dr. Claughton—this being the first election of one who was not a Fellow of the Society since the acquisition of the patronage by the College.

The Kempthornes were a Cornish family, and are mentioned, among others, by the Rev. S. Baring-Gould, in his "Old Country Life," page 67, as having become extinct in Cornwall. He describes Tonacombe, a mansion of the Leys and Kempthornes in the parish of Morwenstowe, as a "singularly untouched house," constructed with two halls, one for winter with a fire-place in it, serving as a sort of lower storey to the summer hall, clear to the roof "one superposed upon the other; here there was a tiny entrance court into which the hall looked . . . with its great fire-place, and the parlour panelled with oak."

If the Archdeacon remembered this abode of his ancestors, he must sometimes have been reminded of it as he sat and mused in the panelled dining-room of his Rectory, opening as it does from a hall dissimilar in construction, but probably as large as that which Baring-Gould describes.

Archdeacon Kempthorne came of a talented race. His grandfather, also of St. John's College, Cambridge, was Senior Wrangler in 1796.

He held the office of Rural Dean of Yaxley. He was the author of a pamphlet on the Church Catechism, which reached a second edition.

He died and was buried at Elton; and it is somewhat remarkable that no Rector had died in the parish for the previous 101 years, Dr. Fisher having passed his later years in London, and his successors, Claughton and Faber, having resigned the living on accepting other appointments.

In July 1891 a memorial window was placed in the chancel in memory of Rector Kempthorne, the cost of which was defrayed by the

Earl of Carysfort, with a limited subscription from many of his late parishioners. It bears the following inscription :

To the memory of the Ven. Archdeacon Kempthorne,
born Novr. 3, 1804, died Octr. 24, 1888. Archdeacon of
St. Helena and Rector of Elton for 28 years.

This window is erected by 418 of his Parishioners.

Messrs. Hardman have given this description of the subject of the window :

“The window lately erected on the south side of the chancel contains the subject ‘Christ’s charge to St. Peter,’ as given in the xxi chapter of the Gospel of St. John.

“In the dexter light is the figure of the risen Saviour, clothed all in white, saying to Simon Peter, ‘Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me more than these?’ and St. Peter, answering, said, ‘Yea, Lord; Thou knowest that I love Thee.’ Jesus then said unto him, ‘Feed My lambs’; and again, later on, ‘Feed My sheep.’ About the feet of both figures the sheep and lambs are clustered, the emblems of those committed to the charge of Peter. This saint is represented in an attitude as it were of suppliant remonstrance at the repeated question of his Master.

“In the distance is a vessel and the hills lying about the lake, thus identifying the scenes with the description given by St. John in the earlier verses of the chapter. The group is surmounted by a framework, and the whole is on a background of delicate grisaille which gives the work a light appearance.”

To Archdeacon Kempthorne succeeded Rose Fuller Whistler, Vicar of Ashburnham and Rector of Penhurst, Sussex, M.A. of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, on the nomination of his wife Mrs. Augusta Whistler, of Battle.

Mr. Whistler, who was ordained at Chichester—Deacon 1849, Priest 1850—was Curate of Battle, and afterwards successively Vicar of Bishop’s Norton, Lincolnshire; Rector of Hollington, Sussex; and Rector of St. John and St. Laurence, Ilketshall, Suffolk, on the nomination of the Lord Chancellor. He was also Rural Dean of Wangford and of South Elmham, and is in the Commission of the Peace for the counties of Suffolk and Huntingdon.

On his retirement from Sussex he was unanimously elected a Vice-President of the Sussex Archæological Society, to whose works he had been a frequent contributor.

CHAPTER VI.

THE ADVOWSON OF ELTON RECTORY, COOPER'S HOSPITAL,
THE SCHOOLS, AND THE BALLAST HOLE.

FROM a reference to the list of appointments to the Rectory, it will be seen that, prior to the institution of Dr. Brereton in 1534, the patronage was in the hands of the Abbot of Ramsey. At the dissolution of the monasteries it would appear to have passed with the Manor into the possession of a layman. The probability is that it formed part of the donation of Æthelric to the Abbey after he had acquired,* somewhat unscrupulously, the property and rights of the outwitted Dane.

Of the advowson we have particulars from 1661 to 1884.

In the former year John Cooper, Rector and Patron, upon his deprivation of the living, nominated as his successor Thomas Ball, husband of his daughter Elizabeth, and upon him and his heirs he afterwards settled the advowson.

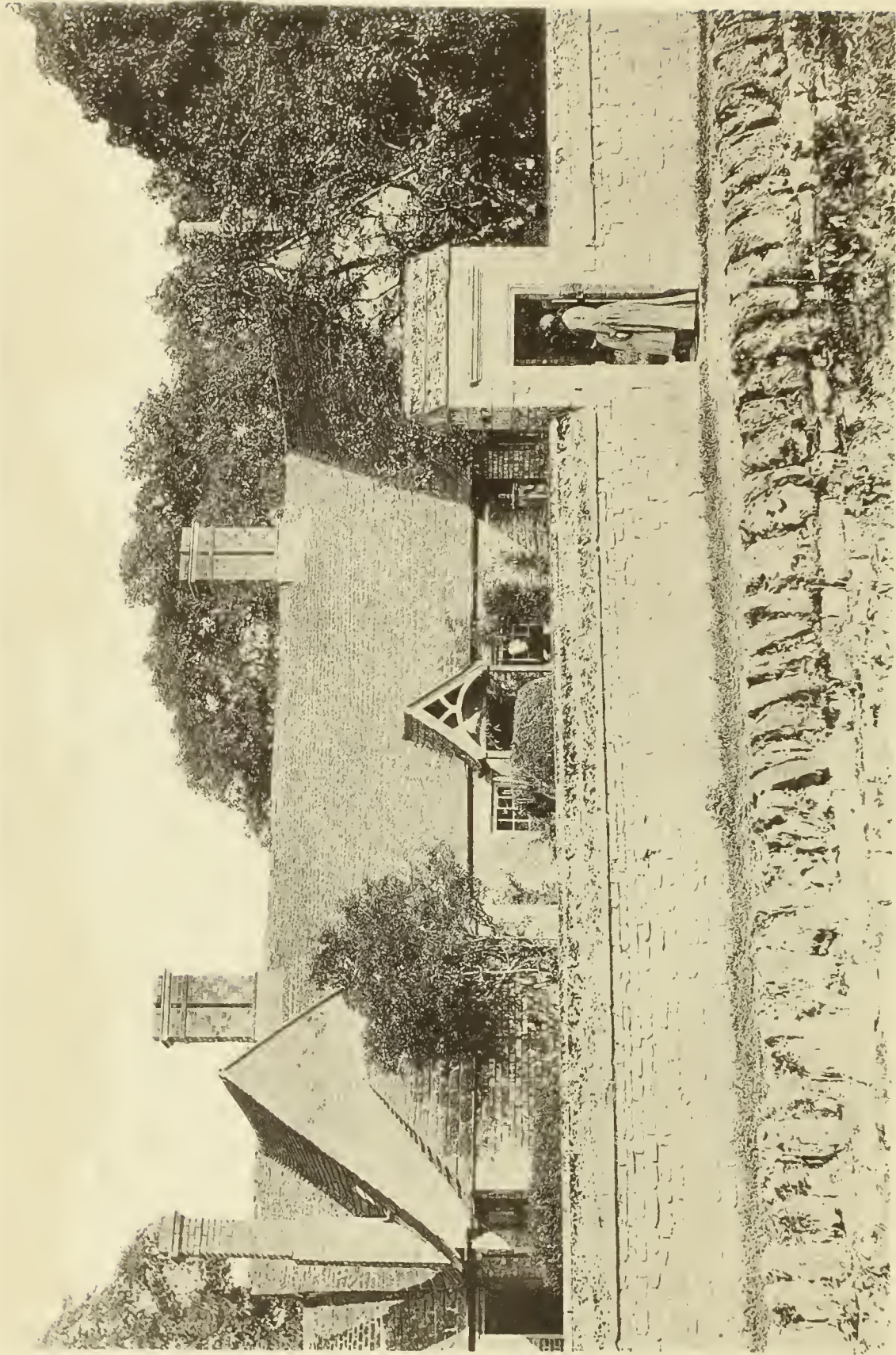
From Thomas Ball it passed by inheritance to his son, another Thomas Ball, D.D., who became Patron and Rector.

To Thomas Ball, D.D., succeeds in the ownership of the advowson the Rev. Samuel Ball, also Rector and Patron, who marries Ann, daughter of Mr. William Fuller. This Samuel Ball borrows money of his father-in-law, assigning as security the advowson of Elton. At his death this loan, with large arrears of interest, remaining unpaid, Fuller takes possession of Ball's estate, including the advowson.

In 1760 litigation ensues, and as the result the advowson is sold to the Master and Fellows of University College, Oxford, the conveyance being executed by all the parties concerned in the law suit, viz., Sir Matthew Lamb (as executor of the late Rev. Thomas Ball), Frances Fawkes, Jane Fuller, Thomas and Elizabeth Ball. The date of the conveyance is 22 and 23 December 1760.

In 1884, powers having been granted to the authorities of certain Colleges to alienate their Church Patronage under certain circumstances, the advowson of Elton is sold by the Master and Fellows of University

* See page 6.



Cooper's Hospital, Elton.

College, Oxford, under the sanction of the Land Commissioners for England (Sir James Caird, Lord Lyttleton, and Colonel Leach), to Augusta, elder daughter of the late James Watts, Esq., of Battle, in the county of Sussex, with the consent of her husband, the Rev. Rose Fuller Whistler, now (1892) Rector.

COOPER'S HOSPITAL.

This consists of four small tenements on the high road from Peterborough to Oundle. It was founded in his lifetime by deed of gift, dated 22 June 1663, by the Rev. John Cooper, Rector and Patron of Elton, "for the habitation, finding, sustentation, and relief of maimed, poore, aged and needy, or impotent persons not exceeding the number of foure, to be a body corporate, with full power to purchase and to hold as well goods and chattels as Manors, Tenements, and Hereditaments, so that the same exceeded not the yearly value of 100 marks above all charges and reprizes;" and also that they should have a common seal, being the coat of arms of Cooper of Lancashire, out of which he was descended; also that "the Parson or Parsons of Elton for the time being, and the Overseers of the Poore should be the Trustees of the said Charity, provided that the free and full consent of the Parson or Parsons should be first had and obtained for placing or displacing the Pensioners and the ordering of all affairs for the benefit of the said Hospital."

And, for the endowment, he conveyed the buildings then standing in a rood of ground near Elton Church; and for their maintenance a farm called Blyton Farm, within the city of Lincoln, then of the yearly value of sixteen pounds per annum, to be distributed as follows: "To the warden and poore people of the Hospital, to each of them fifteen pence weekly, and two great chaldron of coals to be delivered free, the remainder to be carefully laid up and kept by the Parson and his successors for repairs and necessary charges."

The rent of this farm gradually increased, and with each increase an addition was made to the portions of the pensioners. In 1787 it produced £40 a year. In 1826 an enclosure was made, and then the rent rose immediately to £165. The weekly payments were then increased to 11s. 6d. to each inmate, a sum that has never been exceeded. Under the careful management of Dr. Fisher, a surplus accumulated, amounting in 1835 to £260, and this sum was invested for the benefit of the charity. On the 17th December 1880 a new scheme was sanctioned by the Charity Commissioners, under which the charity is managed by

six Trustees, three of whom are *ex-officio* and three elected. The former are the Rector and Overseers, the others "competent persons residing in Elton, or within a convenient distance thereof;" the Rector to be chairman, and to have a casting vote, "whether or not he shall have previously voted upon the same question." From the income of the Hospital, after payment of all necessary charges, the Trustees are to reserve two yearly payments of £50 and £15, and to pay them to the Managers of Elton Elementary School (altered, however, during the prevailing depression, since 4 June 1886, to an annual sum not exceeding £50 and not less than £30), to be applied by them to the purposes of the School, the residue to be appropriated to the Hospital.

According to these new regulations the qualifications of candidates for election to the benefits of this charity are "to be either widows or unmarried, of good character, who shall have resided in Elton not less than three years preceding the time of their appointment, who shall not during that period have received Poor Law relief, and who, from age, ill health, accident, or infirmity, shall be unable to maintain themselves by their exertions, with a preference for those persons who, being otherwise qualified, shall have been in better circumstances."

There is to be paid to each, "by weekly or other periodical payments, a weekly stipend of not less than ten shillings, with two shillings extra, at the discretion of the Trustees, to the Warden, each to have in addition two tons of coal annually."

The weekly payments have been, of necessity, reduced, under the authority of the Commissioners, to eight shillings each, with or without coal as the Trustees may order.

There are other regulations as to the letting of the land in the event of a vacancy; and, in certain cases, also to the appointment of out-pensioners, and to necessary notice at the time of election.

Since the foundation of this Hospital, 228 years ago, there appear to have been fifty-four inmates, exclusive of the present occupants. Their longevity has been remarkable. Since 1816, when the age was first entered in the Burial Registers, thirty-two alms-women have died. Of these,

Eight were between 75 and 80			
Ten	„	80	„ 85
Three	„	85	„ 90
Two	„	90	„ 95
One was 100.			

The average age of the whole thirty-two being very nearly seventy-nine.



Elton Schools.

THE SCHOOLS.

These now consist of handsome and commodious buildings of stone, comprising spacious boys' and girls' (mixed) and infant schools, together with a comfortable house for the master and mistress. They are well placed on the high ground near the entrance to the churchyard, on the approach to it from the main street of the village, and are capable of accommodating at least 150 children. They are supported by an endowment which produces £31 7s. 4d. a year, £45 contributed by the Trustees of Cooper's Charity, the rent of a small farm at Old Weston, now £21 per annum, the weekly payments of the children,* the Government grant, and about £24 voluntary subscriptions. This, however, is insufficient for their maintenance in due efficiency, and it has been found necessary to draw gradually upon a small fund, the accumulation of more prosperous days. The average attendance of children is 123.

The cost of the school buildings, as certified in February 1878 by Mr. Walter E. McCarthy, the architect who planned and superintended the execution of the building, was—

For original contract	-	-	£1019	9	7
For extras	-	-	-	67	3 6
<hr/>					
Total	-	-	£1086	13	1
<hr/>					

The original school-house bears the following inscription :

The Gift of
Mrs Jane Proby Widow
of John Proby Esqr :
Sister of Sir Richard Cust
Baronet of Lissington
in Lincolnshire.

It is now converted into three comfortable dwellings for labourers. It stands, facing south, in the lower part of the village—Nether End—is built of Ketton stone, of good elevation and respectable appearance, with chimneys of the conventional Northamptonshire type; it has a weathercock on the gable nearest to the street.

The history of this building is as follows:—It was purchased with some money left by Mrs. Jane Proby for a workhouse, or place for old women in the parish to meet and work, etc., as a charity. It was in turn,

* By the substitution of the fee grant in lieu of the children's pence, the school funds are at present increased by about £15 a year.

first, a workhouse as intended ; secondly, a girls' school where Mrs. Brawn used to teach up to the time of the amalgamation of the schools. It was then purchased by the Earl of Carysfort from the Overseers of the Parish, and the proceeds of the sale went towards defraying a portion of the cost of the new school buildings.

The following extract from Hatfield, page 627, refers to a benefaction of Mrs. Frances Proby :

“Frances Proby, by will dated 16 December 1711, gave to the poor of the Parishes of Elton, Yaxley, and Fletton £200 apiece to be disposed of by her mother Jane Proby in the best manner, for their benefit. The said Jane Proby by her will bequeathed sundry legacies to individuals, and also for different charitable purposes in the Towns of Elton, Yaxley, and elsewhere (but she gave no direction by her Will for the disposition of the Legacy of £200 given by her daughter Frances to the poor of Fletton. The £200 was invested in 1728 in South Sea Annuities, and the capital has been subsequently increased to £1334 6s. 8d. by unapplied income, etc., the annual dividend thereon being £40).”*

The site of the new schools was given by the Earl of Carysfort.

Previous to the building of these new schools there had been two separate schoolrooms, one for the boys, the other for girls, the former being now the infants' room, and the latter having been held in what was the gift of Mrs. Jane Proby, and afterwards used as a workhouse.

The Earl of Carysfort writes with reference to the original school-house: “The old building, referred to on page 61, was given by Mrs. J. Proby as a workhouse—not as we now understand the word, but as a place where poor women used to meet and work. When the new schools were built it was determined to sell this building and plot to provide funds for the new school-house, and it was purchased by the fifth Earl.”

For some years the Inspectors had complained of this girls' school, frequently alluding to its faults and deficiencies in their reports.

In 1868 Mr. Blakiston says, “New rooms in a more central position would be an advantage.” Again, in the following year: “The situation of the school premises at the lower end of a long straggling village is objectionable. An effort should be made to sell the school premises, and secure a more central and convenient site, *e.g.*, contiguous to the boys' school.”

Then in 1871 we read in the report, “The room is ill-ventilated . . . my Lords hope to hear of some proper arrangement being made for the

* This latter clause relates only to Fletton.

infants next year," and the attention of the managers is called to the requirements of the Code.

In the following year the climax is reached, and the grant withheld. Eventually permission of the Charity Commissioners is sought and gained, whereby part of the endowment of the Rev. J. Cooper is diverted from the Hospital and combined with the Proby Charity for educational purposes, the schools are consolidated in the new buildings then made, and on the 10th October 1876 they are re-opened in their present complete and convenient form.

There are only two other benefactions belonging to the parish—a close of about three acres, and a rent charge of £1 a year, arising out of the property now occupied by Miss Hopkinson, left by Thomas Selby in 1702, to be distributed to the poor on St. Thomas's Day.

THE BALLAST HOLE.

Although called the "Elton Ballast Hole" and managed, as to the payment of the workmen therein, from Elton Station, the land from which the ballast is dug is in the parish of Fotheringhay, at a spot adjoining what is still called "Fotheringhay Park," distant about half a mile from the site of the historic castle. The railway from Northampton to Peterborough intersects the land which yields the gravel, and which comprises in all about twenty-one acres, now (1892) all excavated with the exception of some five or six acres. The ballast, of a gravelly nature, is found under a coping of loamy soil, varying from two to four feet in depth, and is conveyed in trucks, into which it is directly loaded for the use of the London and North-Western Railway Company, to all parts of their line—London, Willesden, Banbury, Oxford, and many other places. It has been in use about fourteen years, and, as a rule, about twenty-five hands find regular employment in the quarry at a weekly payment of eighteen shillings, from which fourpence is retained to form an insurance fund for the maintenance of any who, while at their work, may be accidentally disabled.

During the excavation many fragments of pottery have been found, seldom, however, sufficiently perfect for preservation. Recently about twenty human skeletons have been uncovered, lying very near the surface in various positions, but generally with the head touching the knees, without anything to mark with certainty the date of their interment. The most probable conjecture appears to be that we have here a Romano-British burial-place, as appears from the cinerary urns which are occasionally found, and the general position of the skeletons.

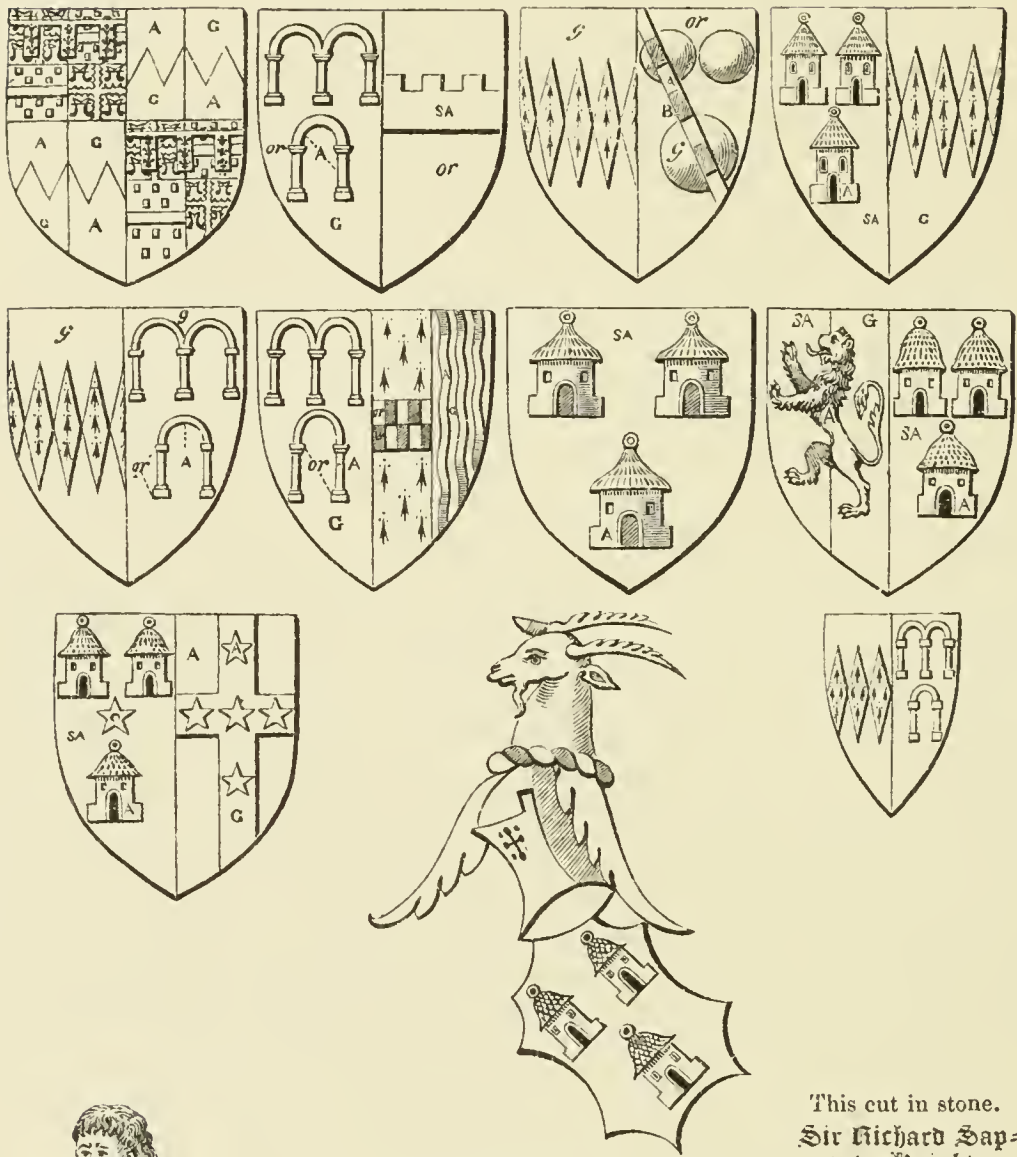
A small urn lately found, and now in possession of the writer, contains calcined bones, and is very nearly perfect; it is of fine dark ware, about six inches high, and the same in its greatest diameter, having round the centre an irregular pattern, like lattice-work, rudely traced. Other relics are preserved in the Museum at Northampton, and there is little doubt that many interesting memorials of a distant age are frequently dug up, broken, and cast away in barrow loads over "the tip" by the workmen, as was the case with the skeletons!

We say Romano-British rather than Roman, because, as a rule, the fragments of pottery that are found are in form and texture Roman, but the patterns wrought upon them are generally in such right lines as are found upon vessels undoubtedly Celtic; and then there is the general position of the skeletons in further confirmation of our theory.

These skeletons lie nearly together, the earth in which they are found shewing signs of having been disturbed. In almost every case the teeth are perfect; generally the bones are large, indicating a people of great stature; sometimes the skulls are cracked, either by what may have been possibly a death blow, or more likely from the pressure of the superincumbent earth. We may dismiss at once the opinion of the labourers that they are the remains of some who were murdered at Fotheringhay Fair; "there were rough doings," they say, upon the occasion of those annual gatherings. Unfortunately no specimen has been preserved, and the report of the excavators gives only a general idea of the character of the skeletons.

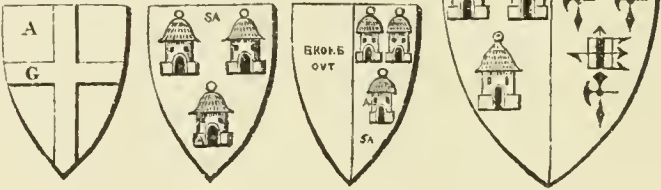
Fragments of the horns of large deer, a few coins (very imperfect) of the Lower Empire, teeth of extinct animals, are found in the gravel; sometimes stone beads, knives, and spear-heads of Roman workmanship are met with in the coping.

IN THE CHAPELL OF THE HOWSE AT ELTON IN COM. HUNT.
10 AUGUSTI 1613.

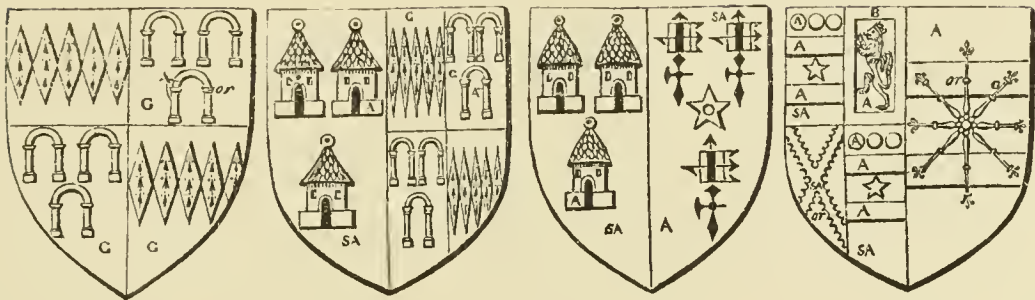


This cut in stone.
Sir Richard Sap-
cote, Knight.

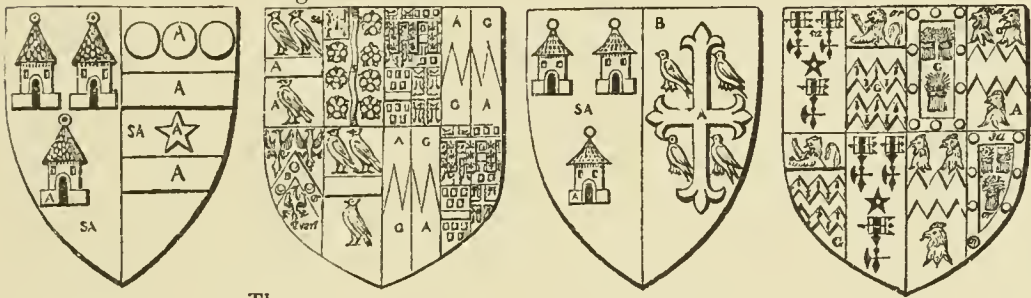
IN THE CHURCHE OF ELTON.
These 3 in glasse windowes.



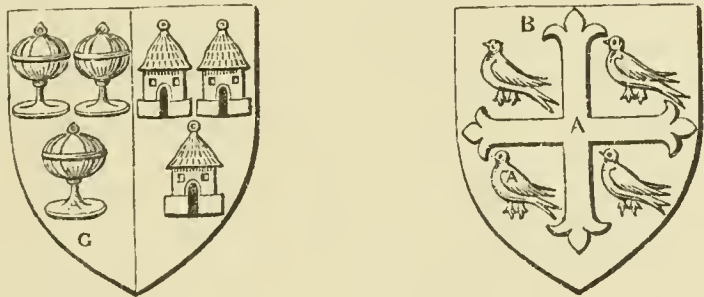
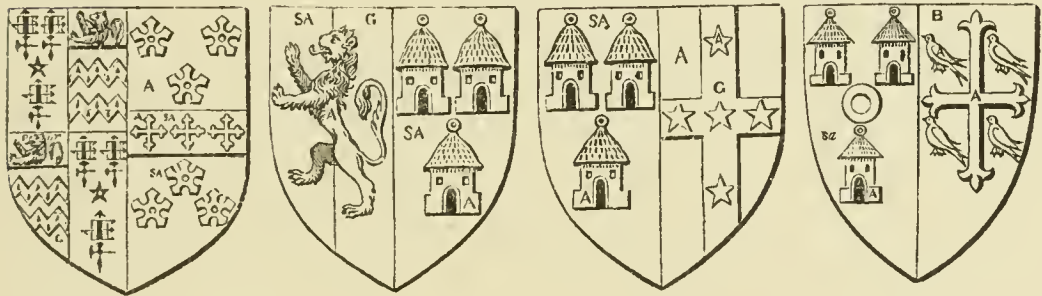
THESE 14 ESCOCHEONS FOLLOWING ARE IN THE PARLOUR
WINDOWS.



Page



Thorpe



TAKEN FROM THE VISITATION OF HUNTINGDONSHIRE, 1613.

CHAPTER VII.

THE HALL AND ITS CONTENTS.

ELTON HALL stands in Overend, partly in Northamptonshire and partly in Huntingdonshire, in a well-wooded undulating park of about 196 acres. It appears to have been built in four several stages, and is in consequence a not very harmonious mixture of different styles of architecture. The oldest portion is a striking tower with machicolations, opening for portcullis, and porch entrance, built of Barnack stone, dating from the reign of Henry VII., if it be not earlier. This picturesque tower is connected with an ancient chapel, now converted into handsome dwelling-rooms by a building constructed of material brought from a demolished mansion at Chesterton, once the abode of the Dryden family. The fourth part is of recent date, and contains the entrance hall and several convenient apartments. It is built of local stone quarried on the estate, and although it would be considered a handsome structure if it stood alone, its position in connection with the older buildings is very incongruous, and in too marked contrast with its surroundings. Adjoining the courtyard, which contains the offices, is a large and most convenient range of stables, with all necessary adjuncts, and most carefully furnished with every modern improvement.

In his "Generall of Great Britaine, published in 1626," this notable residence is mentioned by Speed, whose description is probably from the pen of Sir Robert Cotton, the writer of the notes for his chapter upon the county of Huntingdon, of whom he mentions, "this I received from a right worthy and learned friend." "In Elton," he says, "the house rich in a beautious Chappell, from Denhams to Sapcotts, and Sautre Beaumes, from that surname (neare the time of the Conquest) by Louth to Cornwallis descended; as Bottlebridge by Gimels, Drayton, Louet unto Sherley the now Lord."

This chapel is also mentioned by Camden, who speaks of it as "a private chapel, of singular workmanship, and most beautiful painted glass windows, that was built by Elizabeth Dinham, wife of Baron Fitzwarren, who married into the Sapcote family."

About 1660 the house was remodelled by Sir Thomas Proby, Bart., who married a daughter of Sir Robert Cotton of Connington, the eminent antiquary, and the representative of the county in several Parliaments.

When Brydges wrote of the neighbouring county he says that "in the old part of the house still remaining is the chapel, having on each side of the altar a niche for a statue of large size." He adds that "the ceiling and gallery are of old oak wainscot, and without are pinnacles which spring up at the east end On the outside of the hall are these arms: three castles; crest, a goat's head or ram's head rudely cut in stone. The tower is square and embattled, the stonework under the battlements hanging out in a peculiar manner. In the gate to the south, now a stable, is to be seen the place of a portcullis, and in the doorway are small stone arches crossing at the roof; the same sort of arches is in the room under the chapel."

Elton Hall contains many valuable pictures, principally family portraits, but including several by Sir Joshua Reynolds,* "A Holy Family," by Leonardo da Vinci,† "The Decoy," by Sir Edwin Landseer, and a Hobbema, which is considered one of the *chef d'œuvres* of that Master. There is a large and interesting library, containing many early theological works. Among these is a valuable collection of Bibles and Prayer Books, including a Mazarin Bible. Historical and philosophical books are the most numerous: there is a copy of "Queen Elizabeth's Progresses," of "The Odyssey," a volume of rare interest, as it contains Pope's autograph and presentation to a friend; several topographical works, among which are Brydges's "Northamptonshire," Peck's "Stamford," and Morant's "Essex," with the additional illustrations; also "Elzevir" Classics, and numerous other volumes of great value. In addition to these are many manuscripts, chiefly perhaps of local importance.

The grounds of Elton Hall are well wooded; elm predominates, but there are a few grand specimens of what Cowper calls "Lord of the woods, the long surviving oak."‡

An arched footway under the road to Oundle leads from the pleasure gardens into a long narrow plantation, extending in the direction of the higher land called "Stokes Hill." Towards the end of a pleasant walk

* Notably that mentioned in "The Life and Times of Sir J. Reynolds" (vol. i., page 165 note): "But the loveliest perhaps of all the portraits of Kitty Fisher is an unfinished head in powder and a fly cap, in Lord Carysfort's possession."

† Known to the artistic world as "The Madonna of the Bas Relief," formerly at Gatton Park.

‡ "The Task."

are several noble oaks, two of which are of unusual dimensions. The stem of a third, the largest, was lately broken off about five feet from the ground.

If Dryden's conclusion is to be accepted, the age of these remarkable trees must be nearly 600 years, for although still vigorous they begin to shew signs of decay. His lines on the life of this tree divide it into three well-defined stages—

“Three centuries he grows, and three he stays
Supreme in state, and in three more decays.”

As a proof that, if unmolested, the oak will linger for many generations after its prime, before all vitality is extinct, we may instance that there are several trees at Ampthill, in Bedfordshire, still standing in picturesque decay, although they were sold for ship-building to the Government in Cromwell's time, when the Commissioners sent to view them declined to complete the purchase, on the ground that they were even then too far gone to be available for the intended purpose.

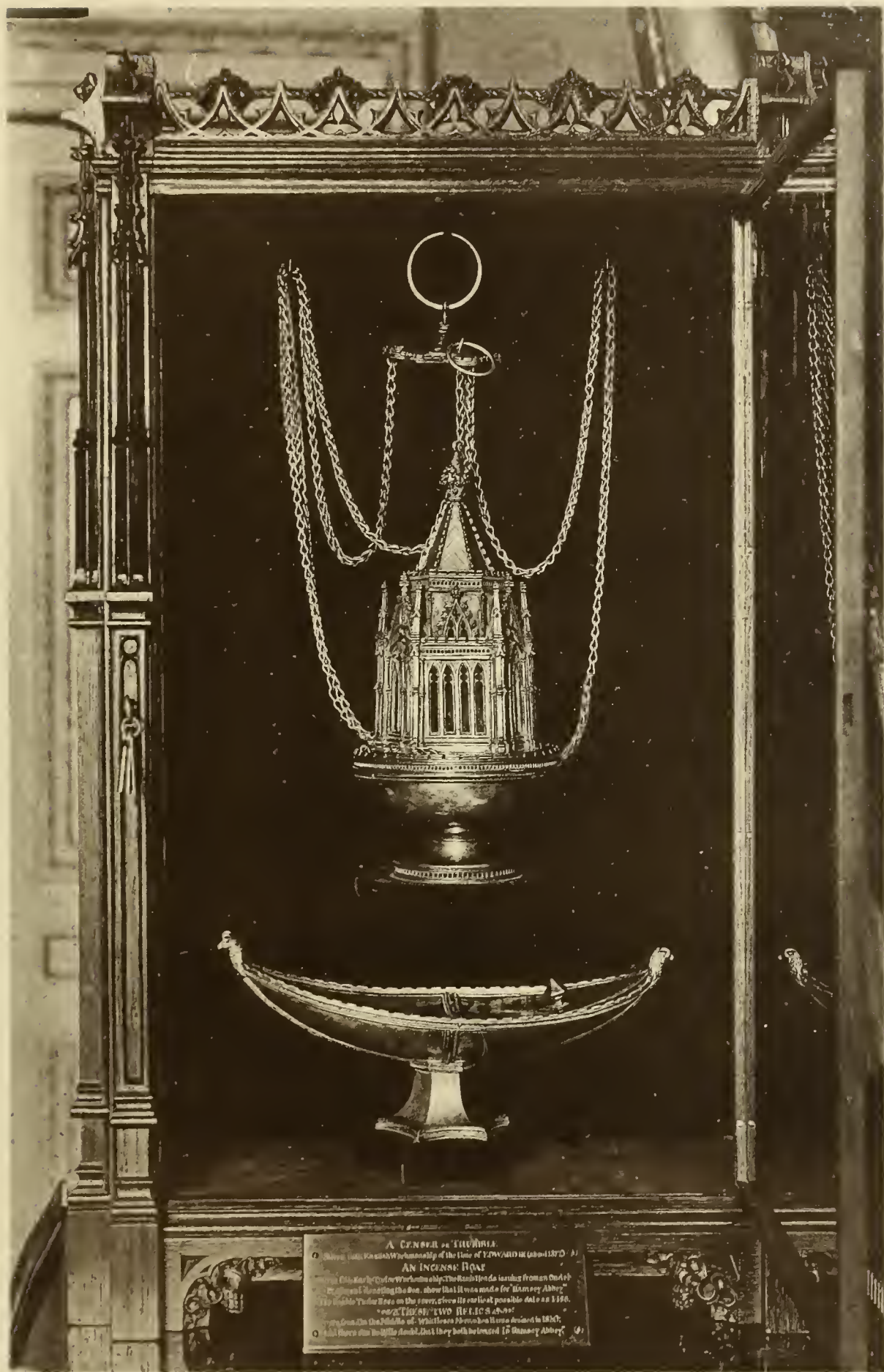
CHAPTER VIII.

THE THURIBLE AND INCENSE BOAT.

PROBABLY, however, the antiquary would linger with the greatest interest over a recent addition to his treasures which has been made by the present Earl, who is now the fortunate possessor of the ancient silver vessels that were recovered from the bed of Whittlesea Mere when it was drained, and which had belonged in olden times to Ramsey Abbey. The stories of their finding are all of interest and well worth recording; we therefore give the traditional report, and then the authentic narratives of the finders of these unique relics. It seems that the men employed about the drainage works were treading the mud for eels, when one of them struck his foot against what he took to be, at first sight, an old brass kettle. A closer inspection disclosed the fact that the vessels, for there were two, were of silver, and of an uncommon description. To the man, however, the metal was of more value than the design, and he lost no time in converting it into money, by its sale as old silver to a dealer in the neighbouring city of Peterborough. It chanced that the Marquis of Northampton saw the vessels in the dealer's shop, and purchased them for the sum of £50. The report of these transactions having reached the ears of Mr. Wells, the Lord of the Manor in which the articles were found, he lost no time in laying claim to them. His claim was admitted, and on repayment of their cost to his lordship, they were transferred to Holmwood, where they have since remained until their recent sale, on the death of Mr. Wells. Such is the traditional story.

We now give the authentic information obtained from J. and F. Coles, of Yaxley, as told by them :

“ Joseph Coles, of Yaxley, found the censer, and Frank Coles, the incense boat. Frank Coles is dead. The censer was found two or three days before the incense boat, and they were about twenty yards from each other. They were found between Mr. Palethorp's Farmhouse and Troy Hill. They were fishing for eels, and the relics were lying on the surface, and were a very bad colour; in fact when J. Coles found his he did not



The Thurible and Incense Boat.

think it of any value. They kept the relics some time, and Lord Northampton was going to give them £51 for the censer, but Mr. Wells claimed it, giving Joseph Coles and his father £21 for the censer, and Frank Coles received £5 from Mr. Wells for the incense boat. They found a lot of things, taking them into Peterborough, and selling them for a trifle." One pewter plate measured twenty inches across.

Another statement by J. Coles :

"J. Coles and F. Coles were punting from Johnson's Point to Frog Hole Mill in search of eels, and pointed out the spot in Bodger's Map of Whittlesea Mere where there is a mark $\frac{6}{x}$ as the point where the censer was found. He saw the censer lying on the surface. Coles says that the old water highway from Ramsey to Peterborough was from Bevill's Tower to White Pit Trundle Mere, and that he must have been crossing this line at the spot where he found the relics."

The Times newspaper of June 3, 1890, gave the following account of their sale, and its attendant circumstances :

"The two ancient silver censers found in the bed of Whittlesea Mere about fifty years ago, when it was being drained at the expense of the late Mr. William Wells, of Holme Wood, Peterborough, were, according to announcement, sold by Messrs. Christie, Manson, and Woods, of London, on Tuesday, June 2, 1890, in presence of a very full attendance, among whom were Mr. A. W. Franks, of the British Museum, the Duke of St. Albans, Lord Rosebery, Lord Powerscourt, and Sir George Wombwell. After nearly a hundred lots of the fine old silver plate belonging to the late Mr. Wells, of Holme, had been disposed of, came the thurible or censer of Gothic design and silver gilt, with chain all perfect. It is considered to be of English workmanship of the time about the end of the reign of Edward III., who died 1377, being found with the incense boat, which has the Tudor rose upon it and the rams' heads, indicating that it belonged to Ramsey Abbey ; it is no doubt correctly supposed to have come from the same Abbey, which has long been ruined. It will be found figured in Shaw's 'Decorated Arts in the Middle Ages,' and it is also described in the *Archæological Journal* of 1851. It is 11 inches high, on a circular foot $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter. When it was placed before the audience there was some cheering, and the first bid was made of £500, which in the next three bids rose to £1000, the only competitors being Mr. C. Davis and Mr. Boore, the well-known expert, who, however, did not advance beyond Mr. Davis's bid of £1155, at which sum he was the purchaser. The ship, or incense boat, more properly a 'naviculaire,' with its double Tudor rose in gilt on the cover, and the rams' heads and *ondée* ornament denoting the sea, which was much admired as a most interesting example of English work of the

early Tudor period not later than 1486. It is 11 inches in length, and 3 inches high, standing on a hexagonal foot of elegant form. There were several competitors for the possession of this, but after £400 had been bid there were only Mr. Boore and Mr. Davis, who was again the purchaser at the price of £900. Much interest was felt as to whether the purchase had been made for the British Museum, as Mr. Franks was present, but from all that could be gathered it was for a private collector."

It can only be a matter of conjecture how it happened that these costly vessels were deposited in the Mere. It may have been by the act of their custodian, when the monastery was dissolved, wishing to deprive the rapacious officers of the Commissioners of at least some part of their spoil; or it is possible that he may have sunk them beneath the waters for security, taking certain known bearings for future reference, and intending to recover them, by dragging or otherwise, at some later day as occasion might serve. How little could he or any one have anticipated that the broad lake would be converted into fertile corn-fields, and that after the lapse of centuries these ancient vessels would be discovered by casual labourers, to be exposed to public auction in a London sale-room!



Elton Hall.

CHAPTER IX.

THE OWNERS OF ELTON HALL.

THE Sapcote family were the first possessors of the Hall of whom we have any authentic records. There is a parish of the same name in Leicestershire, and as in an early Lincoln will, written in Norman French and dated "the Nativity of our Lord 1345," we find a bequest, *inter alios*, to John de Sapcote, it is probable that in this case, as in many others, the family took their name from the place.

It is certain that their connection with Elton was of a very early date, and that it continued for at least three hundred years. That they possessed considerable property in the parish in the time of Edward I. appears in the account of Hides, where it is stated "there was in Aylington one hide and a half of the soccage of Burgh, the profits of which arose to the Abbey of Ramseye from its estate here, rated in 1303 at xlv s. vi d., and were paid by Sapcote."

Proofs of their interest in the neighbourhood may also be gathered from other wills proved at Lincoln. In 1304, 8 October, William Dalby, of Oakham, leaves to John Sapcote xx li.

In another will, dated at Keton 5 December 1434, John Sapcote desires to be buried in the Friar Minors Church at Stamford, and gives: "ad opus ecclesiæ B.V.M. de Keton xls.; ad opus mon. Lincoln. xx s.; S. Peters Exton xls.; Tilton xl s." "Johan, my wife," is mentioned. "Item lego Johanni fileolo Johanni filii mei; Cuilibet eorum x li.; my brother William x li.; my sister Agnes x li."

We come now to further direct mention of the Elton Sapcotes. Leland, quoted by Brydges, vol. ii., page 457, says: "Richard Sapcote, of Elton, Knight, *the first setter up of the family in Huntingdonshire*, was buried at Foderingaie A.D. 1477." If by this we are to understand that this individual was the first of the family to take up his residence in Elton, it is not improbable that it would be he who built the tower in which the Sapcote arms appear: "Sable, three dove-cotes argent," corresponding with the remarkable memorial on the south wall of the chancel of Elton Church, where there is also the impalement: "Argent,

three turnpikes* sable.” Although he desired to be buried elsewhere, it was not unlikely that his name and arms should be commemorated in the place of his abode, and this would explain the absence of date, or of the usual “here lies.” This knight was Sheriff of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdon in 1470, and would be living in the reigns of Henry VI. and Edward IV.

In 1507 Sir John Sapcote, Kt., left all his plate at Allington† to his wife for her life—a pretty clear proof that the family was then resident in the parish.

In 1543 a Sir Richard Sapcote desires by will to be buried at Fotheringhay—probably the grandson of the Elton worthy of the same name.

There was formerly in the east window of St. George’s Church, Stamford, the coat of arms of Sapcote impaling the three turnpikes,* similar to that still remaining at Elton, with the legend underneath: “Orate pro a.i.bus Richardi Sapcote et Johannæ uxoris ejus.” If, as is likely, this was the first Richard who was buried at Fotheringhay, this memorial in the Stamford window would in a measure correspond with that at Elton. Of this record, however, a few fragments only remain. Small pieces of glass, with mutilated portions of the dovescotes, are now inserted in the west window of the south aisle.

A Henry Sapcote was twice Mayor of Lincoln, and was buried with his wife Joan in Lincoln Cathedral. She died May 24, 1546, and he June 28, 1553. In his will, dated June 21, 1553, that is a week before his death, he speaks of a wife, Alice, seven sons, and six daughters. A reference to the pedigree will shew that this Henry was only distantly connected with the Elton branch, which became extinct about 1600, and from his numerous sons any of the name now existing would probably trace their descent. The Henry Sapcote of the Cotton pedigree was succeeded by an only daughter, and was therefore another person.

After passing through various hands, the Manor of Thornhaugh, which had been for many generations in the family of Seymark, passed by marriage to William Sapcote, Esq., who married the heiress of Thomas Seymark. This William was succeeded by his son Sir Guy Sapcote, and his daughter carried it to Sir John Broughton, Kt., from whom it passed to the Russells, Earls of Bedford, ancestors of the Duke of Bedford, the present possessor.

The only other remaining memorial of any member of the family is the flat alabaster slab lately recovered on the restoration of Elton Church, upon which is recorded the death of Robert Sapcote, of Elton,

* Or weathercocks.

† Elton.

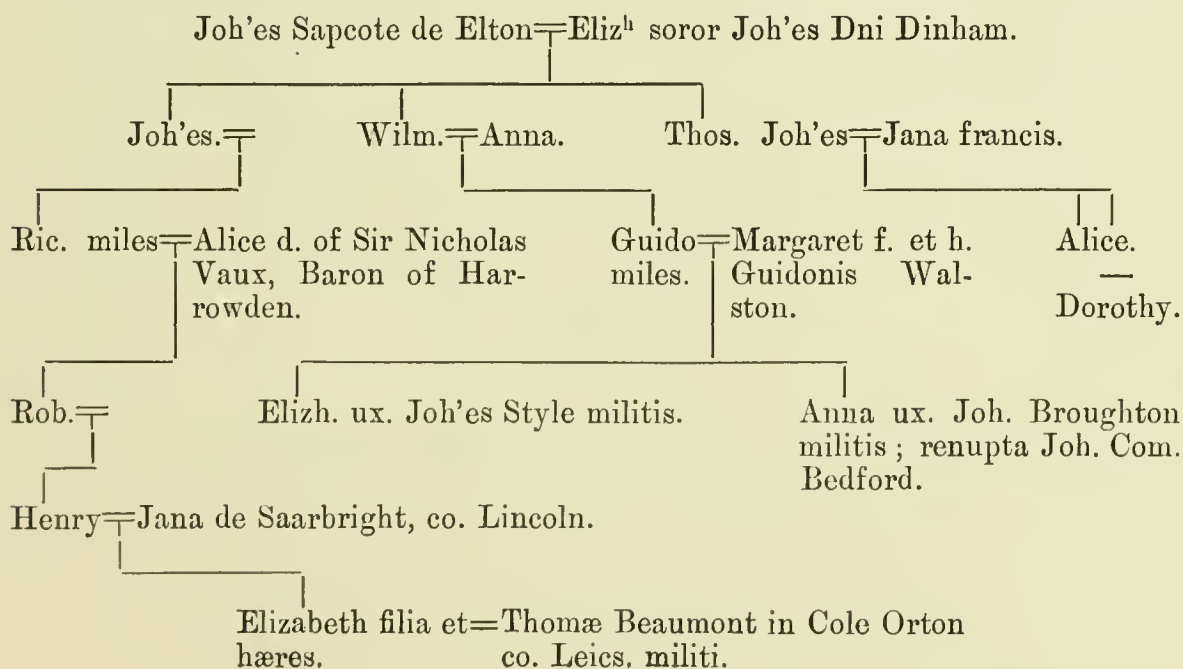
Esq., who died the 4th of February 1600, but of whose burial the Parish Register contains no record, although the usual "here lieth" occurs upon the stone. Possibly he was buried at Fotheringhay, and these words may have been inserted by the mason; as in the case of his ancestor Sir Richard, he may have been buried in the one parish, and his tombstone placed within the church of the place where he lived.

There is a local tradition that this Robert Sapcote was a notorious gambler, and that when his guests at Elton Hall won largely, he had them waylaid on their departure by accomplices who despoiled them of their winnings. There was then a clump of trees and shrubs in the park called "Paradise," where they were surprised and robbed.

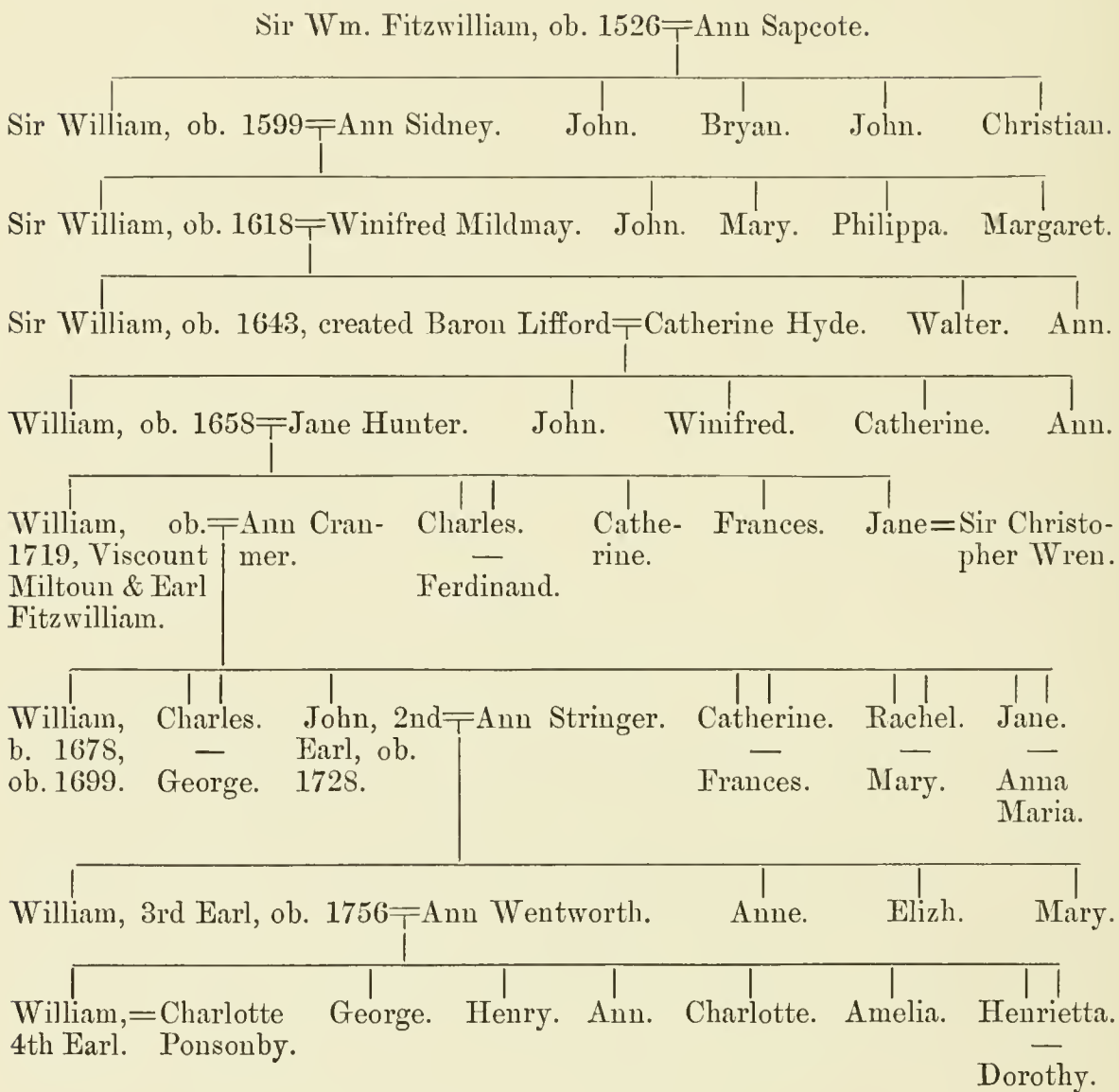
The ghost of this Robert is said to haunt his old abode, and that when he is seen he is accompanied by a large black watch dog, which rolls itself over and over before him. This is a story that has been handed down from generation to generation, and children to this day are told "You will have old Sapcote after you" if they venture after dark through certain parts of the park.

"I tell the tale as it was told to me,
But cannot vouch for what the truth may be."

Of the alliances of the Sapcotes we have many particulars. A Sapcote married a daughter of Lord Denham; another a daughter of Lord Vaux. John, Earl of Bedford, married the daughter of Sir Guido Sapcote. From the following pedigree, preserved in the Cotton MS., it appears that the Elton branch of the family failed in heirs male, and that the greater part of the estates passed by marriage to the Beaumonts of Cole Orton, and to the House of Bedford.



The subjoined pedigree shews the descent of the noble family of Fitzwilliam from a Sapcote of Elton.



OF THE SAPCOTE MOTTO.

This does not appear to be found elsewhere than over the ancient gateway at Elton Hall, where it is to be seen, with the arms, above the arch which was formerly the principal entrance to the building, the date of which may be referred to the fifteenth century. Both the wording and meaning of the motto are very obscure, and have given rise to various conjectures. The following letters bearing upon the subject are interesting, although the conclusions arrived at are hardly convincing.

Notes and Queries, vol. i., pages 366, 476 :

Over the old gatehouse of Elton, co. Hunts, built by the family of Sapcote, is their coat of arms, namely, "three dove-cotes," and upon a scroll surrounding the lower part of the shield is carved a motto, evidently French, and as evidently cut by a person ignorant of that language. So far as I can decipher it, the letters appear to be—

Seo toot x vinic [or umic] x pones.

Possibly the first and last letters s are only flourishes. I shall be glad of any suggestion as to its meaning.

I have not been able to find the Sapcote motto on record; and I believe the Carysfort family, the possessors of Elton, and the Duke of Bedford, the heir in blood, to be ignorant of what this scroll is intended to represent.

Athenæum Club.

ERMINOIS.

SAPCOTE MOTTO (No. 23, p. 366).—This motto is known to be French, and as far as it can be deciphered is—

"Seo toot x vinic [or umic] x pones,"

the first and last letters being possibly flourishes. This certainly seems unpromising enough. The name being Sapcote, quasi Sub-cote, and the arms "three dove-cotes," I venture to conjecture "Sous cotes unisons" as not very far from the letters given. If it be objected that the word "cote" is not in use in this sense, it may be remarked that French, "After the scole of Stratford atte bowe," might borrow such a meaning to suit the sound, from "cote" in the sense of a side or declivity. And if the objection is fatal to the conjecture, I would then propose "Sous toit unissons." If we reject the supposed flourishes at the beginning and end of the inscription, and take it to be

Co Toot unic

Conc.

The c being a well-known ancient form of s, there is a difference of only one letter between the inscription so deciphered and the proposed motto.

If either of these be adopted, the sentiment of family union and family gathering, "As doves to their windows," is well adapted for a family device.

J. C.

Notes and Queries, vol. ii., p. 30, June 8, 1850:

SAPCOTE MOTTO.—Taking for granted that solutions of the Sapcote motto are scarce, I send you what seems to me something nearer the truth than the arbitrary and unsatisfactory translation of J. C.

The motto stands thus:—

“Sco toot x vinic (or umic) x poncs.”

Adopting J. C.’s suggestion that the initial and final s are mere flourishes (though that makes little difference), and also his supposition that c may have been used for s, and, as I fancy, not unreasonably conjecturing that the x is intended for dis, which is something like the pronunciation of the numeral X, we may then take the *entire* motto without garbling it, and have sounds representing
que toute disunio dispenses,

which grammatically and orthographically corrected would read literally “All disunious cost” or “destroy,” the equivalent of our “Union is strength.” The motto, with the arms “three dove-cotes,” is admirably suggestive of family union.

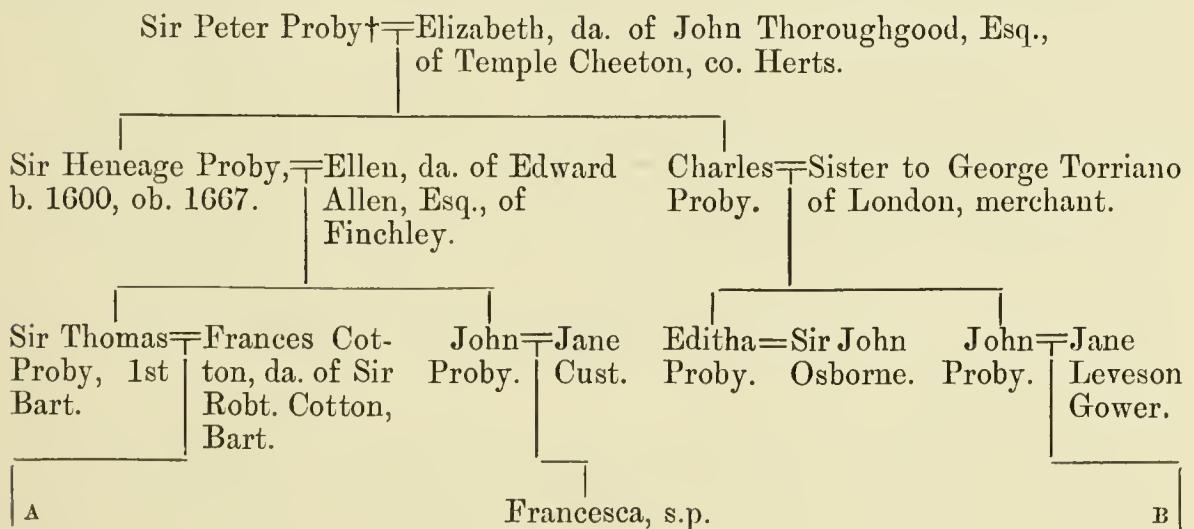
W. C.

CHAPTER X.

THE OWNERS OF ELTON HALL—CONTINUED.

To the Sapcotes succeeded the Probys, the present possessors of the Hall, who have now been the principal family in Elton for nearly three hundred years. We give the pedigree from Sir Peter Proby, who was Lord Mayor of London in 1622. Stow, in his account of London,* writes the name "Prebye," and informs us that Peter Prebye and Martin Lumley were Sheriffs of London at the time that the New River was brought from Amwell to the Metropolis in 1614.

Sir Heneage Proby, who was born in 1600, was possessed of considerable property in the locality, and served the office of Sheriff of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdon in 1651. The hall was first occupied by the family as tenants, until it was acquired by purchase from the Sapcotes, probably about 1602, as Sir Peter Proby, the Lord Mayor of London, was described as "of Elton" at that date. From that time to the present it has been the chief home of the family, altered and added to by one member after another, until it has assumed its present size and proportions.



* Edit. 1618, p. 957.

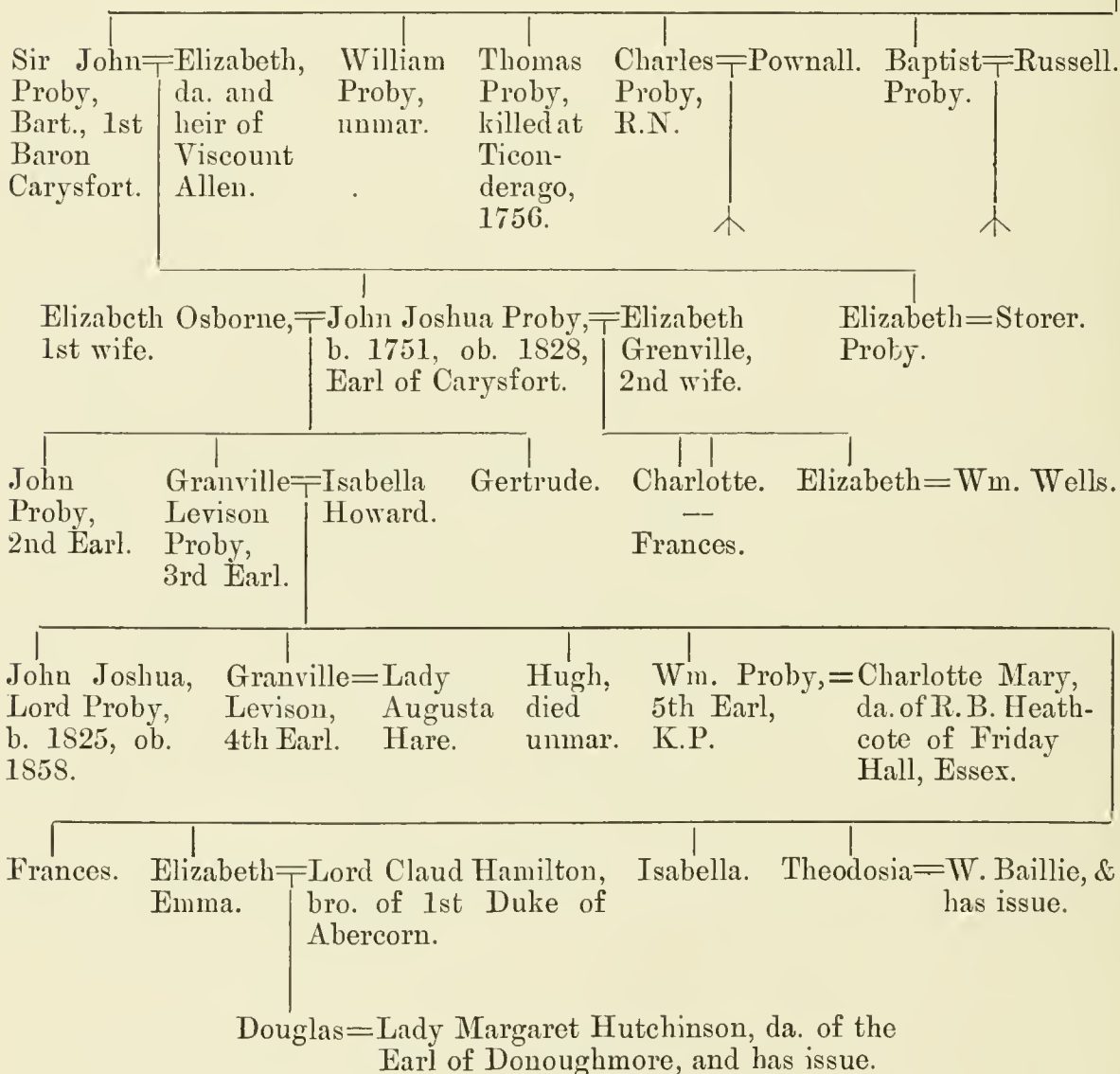
† In the will of Sir Peter Proby, dated 1624, the Manor of Elton is dealt with as belonging to him.

A

B

Alice Proby,* born about 1672-3, aged 11 in 1684. Sole survivor of six children. = Hon. Thomas Watson, who assumed the name of Wentworth under the will of his uncle William, 2nd Earl of Strafford. He died Oct. 1728, aged 57. He was the second surviving son of Edward, 2nd Lord Rockingham.

Thomas, created Earl of Malton 1734, and Marquis of Rockingham 1746.



* On the 18 July 1689 a licence for marriage was granted to "The Hon. Thomas Watson, Esqre., of Rockingham, co. Northⁿ, Bach^r, aged 22, & Alice Proby, of Elton, co. Hunt., Sp^r, aged 17, with consent of her mother Lady Frances Proby, her father Sir Tho^s Proby, Bart^t, being dead; at St Martin's in the Fields, Midd., or [blank]." See "Allegations for Marriage Licences issued by Vicar-General of Archbishop of Canterbury," vol. xxxi. Publications of Harleian Society, p. 113."

Sir Thomas Proby,* who was created a Baronet on the 7th March 1662, married the daughter of Sir Robert Cotton, Bart., of Connington, the learned antiquary and collector of the valuable MSS. which bear his name. This gentleman was the first to alter and enlarge the Hall, and to make it the family residence. By the courtesy of his kinsman and representative, the Earl of Carysfort, we are enabled to give the following interesting particulars of the accounts and expenditure of a gentleman of position in the reign of Charles II.† They are contained in a manuscript book, carefully and fully entered in his own handwriting, and give minute particulars both of his income and expenditure. By a careful perusal of the latter we can trace the manner of life of this good old English squire. We can picture him to ourselves both in town and country, and making occasional visits to an outlying property in Buckinghamshire. In all his varied functions as landowner, Member of Parliament, magistrate, officer of militia, and Lay Rector, we can note the active discharge of his duties. The costs of his buildings, for which he appears to have paid as the works progressed, and which were continued for some years, are all regularly recorded. He gives the charges for planting, fencing, stocking, and farming his lands. We can moreover trace the various changes in the dress of his time, the character of his establishment, the furnishing of his carriage houses and stables. As an employer we find him most methodical in his habits and scrupulously correct in his accounts. We can trace the various stages of his journeyings to and fro, his intercourse with his neighbours, his transactions with his relations and friends.

Of these particulars the following extracts will give illustrations, to which we prefix entries explanatory of the prices of various articles, and the cost of animals, and charges for labour 200 years ago, which it may be interesting to compare with those of the present day.

One episode only may be noted in passing, namely, a touching provision which the good man made for the possible event of the non-

* In his "Short Character of Thomas, Earl of Wharton," Dean Swift relates an instance of harsh and unfair treatment by him, as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, exercised upon "Thomas Proby, Esqre., Chirurgion-General of Ireland, a person universally esteemed." See Swift's Works, published in Edinburgh 1768, vol. xi., pp. 216, 217.

† When Sir Thomas Proby, the writer of this Account Book, sat as Member for the County of Huntingdon, his colleague was the somewhat notorious Colonel Silas Titus, who is described by Macaulay as "a noted Presbyterian, a vehement Exclusionist, and manager of Stafford's impeachment," but who was nevertheless created a member of the Privy Council. This Titus was the author, under the name of "William Allen," of a remarkable publication entitled "Killing no Murder," from which it appears that he was from principle a zealous supporter of Cromwell, until the tyrannical designs of the latter became apparent to the whole country; he then turned round upon the cunning despot, and used every effort to render him odious to the people by representing him as a crafty usurper. It is said that the pamphlet, which advocated his assassination, produced such an effect upon Cromwell's mind that he never smiled afterwards.

survival of his only son ; and silent memorials in Elton Church attest the correctness of his forebodings, for the record of the untimely death, not only of the son, but also of three daughters, his remaining children, faces the tablet which tells of his own departure. Father and family rest side by side, there awaiting, with many others of their race, the great awakening—like as with the insect race, whose labours and struggles are so truly pictures of our own :

“ Hi motus animorum atque hæc certamina tanta
Pulveris exigui jactu, compressa quiescunt.”

The first entry in the Account Book* is dated March 3, 1663 :

For the sale of a coach horse	£13	00	00
-------------------------------------	-----	----	----

Then follow :

March 2 nd or 3 rd for the sale of a black gelding	08	05	00
June 24 th for y ^e little bay nagg	07	00	00

1664.

23 weathers	13	09	04
A brow ⁿ nagg	07	14	00
A black nagg	16	00	00

And at various times :

ffor a pair of colts at Leighton'	25	07	06
J. Child for a cow and calf	04	09	00
To John Child for a cow	03	19	06
For 60 sheep at Old Weston	30	00	00
2 horses at Old Weston	10	12	04
4 heifers at Old Weston	10	00	00
A gelding	06	07	05
A horse for Old Weston	06	14	00
Another horse	07	00	00
Another	05	11	00
5 bullocks for Old Weston	06	10	08
ffor 10 heifers at Lilford	25	00	00
Bought of M ^r Hunt 97 lamblings at 13 ^s 4 ^d a peice wh. came to ...	64	13	04
Bought of him 78 weathers at 12 ^s	46	16	00

* Such accounts as these have this special value, that they give the *ordinary* price of the various articles mentioned. Bishop Fleetwood rightly says : “ I look upon such as the most sure guides in enquiries of this nature ; because our general histories do mostly give us the prices of things which are *extraordinary*, either for cheapness or dearness. Whereas these deliver faithfully the *ordinary* and *common* price of most commodities and provisions.” (“ Chron. Prec.,” Preface, MDCCVII.)

Ews 106 at 18 ^s	£95	08	00
Rams 5 at 18 ^s a peice	04	10	00
Two cows, calf, 2 steers and yearling.....	12	00	00
A mare & foal	10	00	00

1667.

10 lamblings at 9 ^s a peice	04	10	00
33 lambhoggs at 14 ^s a peice.....	23	02	00
40 weathers at 9 ^s	18	10	00
For the black whitefoot gelding	13	10	00
For a black gelding at Northampton	07	00	00
3 steers at 36 ^s a peice	05	09	00
3 heifers at 25 ^s a peice.....	03	15	00
1 cow at	02	02	00
1 bull	01	15	00
A sow and pigs of W. Edis	01	12	00
Bernard a roan nagg	12	01	00
A grey gelding	07	00	00
A trayn horse	02	10	00

To these charges we subjoin the cost of carriages, stable implements, and kindred expenses, which are no less interesting :

Ribbon for y ^e horses foretop	00	00	04
For mending the chariott	00	17	06
Planking the stable	03	04	06
For 2 new shoes for sorrel at Elton	00	01	00
For a blew saddlecloth.....	00	03	06
2 coach whip thongs.....	00	01	06
For 2 new bridles	00	03	06
Cleaning the coach	00	00	02
Expended in the year 1664 :—			
For horsemeat	89	15	09
Stable charges	19	12	05
Horsehire & ffarrier	07	16	11
Shoeing the horse	00	01	06
2 leather halters	00	02	04
A sadle cloth	00	02	08
A chariot to Green	32	00	00
Harnesse & bitts	09	00	00
A canvas cover	00	18	00
Charges to London to fetch y ^e charret	01	06	06
2 hempen halters	00	00	08
A bridle	00	01	04
A curry comb	00	00	10

A pair of stirrup leathers.....	£00	01	00
A black bridle	00	02	06
7 lbs. of grease for the coach	00	02	06
A sadle	00	11	00
Timber, brasswork, ironwork ab ^t altering the coach	16	05	00
Mending the coach going to London.....	00	04	00
A male pillion & girts	00	01	08
My new coach	68	00	00

The next extracts give us the cost of provisions of various kinds in 1663 and five following years :

July 19, ffor russet pipins	00	04	08
A couple of young pulletts	00	02	08
A shoulder of veal	00	01	08
A loyn of mutton	00	01	03
4 ^b of cherries.....	00	01	00
2 pound of butter	00	00	10
A chees	00	01	08
4 soles	00	01	00
A forequarter & loyn of mutton... ..	00	05	00
A couple of rabbits	00	01	08
A couple of poultry	00	01	08
8 bushel of oats.....	00	16	04
ffor a pound of butter	00	00	06
A shoulder of mutton	00	01	00
3 turkeys	00	07	06
3 ducks	00	03	00
Codlings	00	00	02
An ounce of mace.....	00	01	02
Jessamin butter	00	01	00
A chadern of coles	00	16	00
ffor a bottle of sack	00	02	00
A pound of hogg's lard	00	00	06
3 bottles of claret	00	02	06
Caraway comfits	00	01	00
4 ounces of nutmegs	00	00	08
A peck of walnutts	00	00	08
A qur of writing paper	00	00	05
Pills stomach	00	00	08
1 q'r of pap. & an earpick	00	00	11
A couple of rabbetts	00	02	04
2 sugar loaves single refined weighing 7 ^{lb} 13 ^{oz} at 12 ^d p. pound	00	07	09
2 sugar loaves double refined weighing 7 ^{lb} 11 ^{oz} at 22 ^d	00	13	05
4 large tongues	00	12	00

4 doz. of pigeons	£00	05	00
Sea cole agreed for Edw. Cockayn 4 chad' & half.....	04	19	00
A pound of tobacco in Xtnas to J. Child.....	00	04	00
10 bushel of apples	01	00	00
A barrel of capers.....	00	03	00
A barrel of luke olives	00	08	00
11 strike of grey wheat for seed	01	16	08
A salmon & carriage from Wansford.....	00	10	08
60 strike of coles	01	12	06
2 pound of sugar for cyder	00	01	00
ffor a keg of sturgeon & portorage.....	01	02	00
82 lbs. of hony for mead	01	15	00
Aples & pears 12 strike	00	17	00
1 strike of bay salt	00	06	00
5 hens at Stamford	00	02	08
Teirce of claret double caskt	06	02	06

Our extracts will now have reference to the cost* of planting, labour, and building materials; to be followed by that of dress, charges attendant upon service in the militia, with miscellaneous items illustrative of the habits of the times and the characteristics of the journalist.

There is a special note relating to “Labourers at Aylton:—From Martinmas to Candlemas 6^d a day. From Candlemas to Lady Day 7^d. From that to harvest 8^d. From thence to y^e end of harvest 1 shilling. From thence to Michaelmas 7^d. In harvest mowers 1^s 2^d & 1^s 4^d.”

To Ashby for 2 days' digging chalk	£00	02	00
For 36 pole of hedging & ditching and quicking	01	16	00
Y ^e carpenter for 2 days' work.....	00	03	00
ffor M ^r Peveril fallowing 10 ^a 3 17.....	00	02	10
Sheering of 3 sheep	00	00	06
For largess in the field.....	00	03	00

* The following extracts from the Pipe Roll of Henry II. may be compared with the prices of farm produce as recorded by Sir Thomas Proby:—

Date.	Description.	Number or weight.	Average price.
31 Henry II.	Oxen	21	3 ^s
	Sheep	85	8 ^d
	Oats (seed)	200 ^{lds}	1 ^s 6 ^d
	Barley (seed)	8 ^{lds}	2 ^s 2 ^d
	Wheat (seed)	16 ^{lds}	2 ^s 10 ^d
33 Henry II.	Oxen	12	5 ^s
	Cows	4	3 ^s
	Bull	1	3 ^s
	Cart Horses.	3	5 ^s
	Sheep	66	6 ^d
	Pigs	16	8 ^d

Gardner for 2 days' work	£00	02	00
5 days' plowing to G. S.	00	03	04
2 doz. & 11 moles catching at 2 ^d a mole	00	07	10
Mowing 3 ^a of meadow	00	04	00
Thacking the hal barn	00	06	10
To Fisher the carpenter coming over hither several times, it coming to in all 16 days at 3 ^s a day.....	02	08	00
Glazier for the Tower mending	00	02	06
For the masons to drink	00	05	00
To my Cosen Weldon for 2 fodder of lead to be delivered at Aylton	30	00	00
To Rowe for drawing a chy'ny peice	00	10	00
Hinges 10 pr. bought at Londo'	01	13	10
Taking down the old house	26	17	02
4 stock locks.....	00	03	08
Casting of hills in the hil ground	00	13	06
The Kingston carpenter making a sta'ding stool	00	01	06
3 taylors working about the hangings of a chamber.....	00	03	04
For a stone mortar to a weldon mason	00	06	08
Thomas Grey one yeare's mole catching	00	10	00
ffor 21 loads of muck	00	07	00
Driving 41 sheep to old West ⁿ	00	00	08
Tho. Cook carpenter 6 days	00	06	00
Butcher Edis killing 3 calfs	00	04	04
Goodwife Ingram 5 days' woolwinding	00	02	01
For killing a hogg	00	00	06
Ingram 3 days' thacking.....	00	02	06
Ch. Cook carpenter 11 days	00	11	00
3 strike of hair for y ^e slaters	00	01	03
3 doz. of crabstocks	00	03	00
R. Goodwin 8 days' hedging	00	04	00
A cutting knife for y ^e haycocks.....	00	02	02
W ^m Tompson 2 weeks looking to y ^e lambs	00	06	00
ffor ash setts paid for 20	00	03	06
More for 4 ash setts	00	01	06
For making a plough & timber	00	04	00
Paid bearer marking, c'ryng, pounding & graysing a stray sheep ...	00	01	06
Cutting reed at Yaxley	02	16	00
400 of willows at 17 ^s per c ^d	03	08	00
Wildbore of Yaxley setting willows	00	15	06
4 days' thacking	00	04	00
16 hurdles for y ^e fold	00	08	00
Reaping 7 ac. of wheat to Dally & his company at 22 ^d pr. a ^r	00	12	10
Gathering, shocking & binding wheat	00	03	08
W. Dexter 3 days in hay time	00	03	06
A lock & setting it on at Yaxley dovecoat	00	01	00

Butcher killing 3 cows, 7 calves, 3 porkers	£00	08	00
To the mower of thistles at Yaxley	00	00	06
To servts. cutting a hole in y ^e barley mow	00	01	00
1500 quicks for Archer's Croft	00	07	06
Given amongst y ^e servants for harvest gloves 12 ^d a peice	00	11	00
4 thousand of turf brought home by our own team.....	00	15	00
A woman gathering bettony	00	10	00
To old Shepheard Tompsos' for his girl y ^t gathered acornes	00	00	06
Cutting 800 stakes	00	04	00
72 pole of hedging	00	12	00
1 load of bushes cutting	00	01	00
1200 of stakes cutting	00	06	00
Baldwin the gardner planting 44 trees at S. Hardings	02	04	00
Planting cherry trees in Culverhouse Field	00	10	00

1676.

A load of ash felling	00	11	00
Making 4100 faggots at 1 ^s 6 ^d per 100	03	01	06
For making 1900 of downright faggots.....	01	19	07½
Cutting 200 of broom stakes	00	03	04
1000 of quickset	00	05	06
30 loads of billet feld in winter 1680 in y ^e lodge wood at 6 ^s y ^e load	09	19	00
3500 of bricks	01	08	00
To the sawyers for 250 feet of boards sawing	00	05	09

Cost of various articles of dress.

First, of the Baronet's attire and accoutrements :

ffor two suits of armour	01	15	00
ffor a pair of pistolls & holsters	00	19	00
Black stockings worsted	00	10	00
Pistols	04	10	00
Cutler for my sword mending.....	00	03	00
Velvitt capp	00	15	00
Shoes	00	13	04
Mending my belt	00	06	00
A white sattin capp	00	13	00
For a pair of jassamin gloves	00	03	00
A pair of shoes & galoshes	00	09	00
A hatt.....	01	00	00
Mending the pistolls.....	00	02	04
A pair of new pistolls	00	16	06
Jackson for a wastcoat.....	02	16	00
ffor a hatt	01	02	00
A pair of pistolls stocking	00	02	06

Jackson the taylor in full	£28	10	00
1 pr. of silk stockings for my wife	00	14	00
Mr Jackson a periwigg	01	15	00
a hatt.....	01	00	00
Mending a periwigg	00	04	00
Hayr powder	00	03	00
A periwigg, £1 15 0 in al.			
A riding coat sent to Aylton	00	16	00
A black fringe belt	01	15	00
Archer for a candebée hatt	00	10	00
Sword	02	15	00
Belt	00	07	00

Servants' equipments :

For a hanger and belt for Galton	00	19	06
A coat for the butler	01	07	06
M ^{rs} Betty my sister's mayd 6 pairs of white gloves & a pair of jessamin	00	14	06
2 calves' skins for Jack Cockayn's linings	00	01	08
P ^d for ribbins for lining of 2 freeze coats for liverys	02	00	00
To the taylor making freeze coat for Jack & Ralph & mending breeches	00	06	04
Jack's arm setting.....	00	01	00
Gold lace	00	03	09
ffor the taylor for mending the liverys	00	02	06
A hat for Ralph	00	04	06
A half shirt to Jack	00	07	00
2 course hatts for y ^e men Nat & Jack	00	12	00
Bernard's winter coat	01	02	00

Charges consequent upon service with the Militia :

For 2 militia swords	01	00	00
Mustering	00	05	00
The trumpeters	00	01	00
Drum'er	00	01	00
J. Libbey 2 days' mustering	00	05	00
5 days' trooping	00	12	06
To John Webster given for a day's mustering	00	02	06
By me for mustering	00	05	00
Warmington tax the militia.....	00	01	00
3 days' trooping	00	09	00
Powder [? hair powder]	00	00	04
Nassington Militia & house of correction	00	04	04
A trayn horse	02	10	00
Hanger & belt for S. Harding.....	00	13	06
Hanger & belt for Galton	00	19	06

There are also entries of payments in connection with his representation of the county in the House of Commons, *e.g.*—

Officers at the House of Commons	£00	05	00
--	-----	----	----

Others of dues from him as a barrister, as—

Temple porter an errand	00	01	00
To M ^r Buck of the Temple for composition for vacations	25	00	00
Y ^e Baron of y ^e Exchequer man for being sworn	00	01	00
Acts of Parliament	00	04	06

Other payments in connection with his office of Justice of the Peace :

To the Clerk of the Peace	03	19	06
At Huntingdon Easter Sessions	00	08	06
At the Sessions spent	00	08	00
Books of Justice of Peace	00	08	00
At Assizes to the Judge's man	00	01	00
To M ^r Clark, Clerk of the Peace	00	01	00

Many on briefs :

A brief at church	00	01	00
To poor people at the door with a breif.....	00	01	00
To a breif for a fire at Boston n ^r Leicester	00	01	00
The breife to London	01	00	00

The Yaxley estate, which includes Norman Cross, is among the earliest possessions of the Proby family in the county of Huntingdon, and is associated with the title of the present noble owner, who is of Norman Cross. Sir Thomas appears to have done much for Yaxley in various ways, the church and its ministers being special objects of his bounty, as will be seen from the following entries :*

Giv' to Yaxley men to drink	00	05	00
The clerk's salary at Yaxley for half a year	00	13	04
Poor at Yaxley	00	08	06
Prisoners†	00	00	06
To Vicar of Yaxley by y ^e hands of M ^r Hormel his pension & assig'm't by me gra'ted for ½ yeare.....	15	00	00
For registering my decree for Yaxley ffen	02	06	00

* The Proby family continued their benefactions to Yaxley through succeeding generations, *e.g.*, "The principal donations to the parish were those of Francis and Jane Proby, 1711 and 1712, which in 1786 produced £38 a year, now considerably more" (Sweeting). Also, one of the bells is inscribed : "Memento. Mori. Joh. Proby. Armiger. Manerii. Dominus. Benefactor. 1721."

† These would be French prisoners at Norman Cross Barracks.

To the clerk of Yaxley for his salary*	£00	13	04
Sequestration of Yaxley Vicaridge & the dues paid	17	14	00
Cutting reed at Yaxley	02	16	00
Wildbore of Yaxley setting willows	00	15	06
400 of willows at 17s. per c ^d	03	08	00
A lock & setting it on at Yaxley dovecoat	00	01	00
To the mower of thistles at Yaxley	00	00	06
Mr Andrew Vicar of Yaxley	10	00	00
Yaxley molecatcher	00	05	00
Masons for building y ^e Parsonage House	11	13	09
Slaters at y ^l	02	10	00
Balderston a score & 7 poles for Yaxley Parsonage	01	11	02
Given men at work at Yaxley Church	00	06	06
3 ketles bought for Yaxley	02	08	00
To Barford at Yaxley 4 days with John Edmunds	00	04	00
To Simon Brew ^r at Yaxley when I lost my sword	00	02	06

Of the miscellaneous entries the following is the most noteworthy :

1666. Borrowed of Legat { 100 } this lent to the King.
Mr Hicks { 050 }

This must have been upon some sudden emergency. The Baronet, so precise and regular in his expenditure, would not otherwise have borrowed money from his men of business, as Legat and Mr. Hicks appear to have been, nor would he upon ordinary occasions have been without sufficient, not so say ample supplies, for his own requirements. The time was about that of the conclusion of the war with Holland, when money for public necessities and private extravagances was much needed by Charles II., whom Hume rightly styles “this necessitous monarch.” At the outset of the war “the King had received no supplies from Parliament, but by his own funds and credit he was enabled to equip a fleet; the City of London lent him £100,000, the spirit of the nation seconded his armaments.”† Afterwards, when the war had broken out, and the contest had been carried with varying success and great losses on either side, supplies were voted by Parliament, and taxes levied on the Clergy by Convocation. Still the King’s wants continually increased. Subsequently, in 1666, the great fire broke out in London, and the sympathies of his subjects were enlisted in his favour, and we may well conclude the loan here entered is a proof that Sir Thomas, who had recently been created a Baronet, was not backward in lending pecuniary assistance to the King.

There is no mention of repayment.

* This recurs.

† Hume’s “History of England,” vol. viii., p. 484.

Other interesting miscellaneous entries are—

For setting y ^e arms on 4 pieces of plate	£00	06	00
M ^r Cook y ^e picture drawer	23	09	06
A peice of plate to my cose' Halsey	10	02	00
A peice of plate to my cose' Holsworthy	07	09	00
To my cosen Holsworthy for wine, presented by the Secretary.....	05	10	00
ffor rent to M ^r Hewitt for my house in Pel Mel at Christmas last due*	06	10	00
For the May singers.....	00	05	00

The Squire was a sportsman, and paid heavy sums for breaking in his dogs, *e.g.*—

ffor the man Whitle to make my dog, in part of 3 ^{li} to be paid when he is made 4 ^d per week for his diet	00	10	00
To Whittle for making my dogg he having before received 10 ^s	02	10	00
For 2 netts†	00	06	08
For the doggs' bord	00	13	04
Lost at shovel board at Bowm	00	01	06
For largess in the field.....	00	03	00
Given away 4 tortoiseshell combs	00	06	00
To Tom y ^e butler at Cunnington	00	10	00
Lost at tables	00	01	06
Chymney money for y ^e Hal	00	04	00
To a poor minister	00	05	00
To y ^e constable for a rate for a robbery	00	03	11
For registring my decree for Yaxley ffen	02	06	00
ffor the crowner for R. Colton	00	10	00
Weomen that searched him	00	04	00
To the collection for London at the time of the sicknesse‡.....	00	10	00
To Sir J. Cutts his keeper	00	10	00
A ffan	00	04	06
Chimney money	01	02	00
Watching	00	05	00
Taxes and gift to y ^e poor.....	28	11	06
Lost at tables§	00	04	00
At the Sacrament at Xmas	00	05	00
M ^r Dryden's man	00	01	00
S ^r P. Woodhouse his man lighting me home	00	02	00
At Yaxley when I went to see the duckoy	00	01	06
Taking down the old house	26	17	02

* This, as appears from other entries, was a quarterly payment. It is curious to note the vast increase in the value of property in that locality.

† Partridge nets.

‡ The Plague.

§ Often recurs.

A tax at Old Weston y ^e Royal ayd.....	£04	06	09
The collectors of the pol mony in full for myself & servants	17	18	00
Epso' water	00	00	08
Visited people of Warmington*	00	05	00
A dozen of silver spoons	07	00	00
Dally watching one night in the Tower	00	00	04
ffor a cupp	20	06	06
Chymney money for the house 15 chy'nys.....	00	15	00
4 packs of cards by y ^e butler at Xtnas	00	02	00
To M ^r Coldwel for letting blood.....	00	05	00
Gittar strings	00	09	00
To my Lord of Westmoreland's keeper a fee for venison	00	05	00
Dishes of the Frenchman in S. Martin's lane	08	13	00
Maymed soldiers	00	06	00
The Deane's entertainment	14	13	00
A partridge net.....	00	07	06
Keep's fee for a doe	01	00	00
To the Cloggers	00	02	00
For change of a half guiny	00	00	06
To a Bedlam given	00	00	06
Elixir proprietatis	00	01	00
Labourers about diging y ^e mote Aylton.....	04	02	10
A wool bed of Butler of Merburn	10	10	00
A fether bed, bolster & pillows of Butler's wife	01	19	04
To Clement a fayring	00	10	00
To poor passengers	00	10	00
To Sim ⁿ Brew ^r at Yaxley when I lost my sword	00	02	06
To Franc' for learning her chapter.....	00	00	06
Deane's entertainment 1670	17	12	00
Deane's entertainment year 1671	19	01	04
To y ^e subsidys	03	06	00
To M ^r Horsnel for 2 pictures of Tom & Alice	02	01	00
For a coffin for R. Cotton.....	00	09	00

This last item is curious and somewhat perplexing. What relative of the antiquary was this R. Cotton? Why was this coffin provided by Sir Thomas Proby for a relative of his wife who would have died probably at Conington? The cost too is very trifling for such an article, especially in an age when funerals of persons of position were conducted with considerable pomp and show. Is it possible that it may have been a mere shell constructed out of some favourite tree, the carrying out of a wish expressed in the lifetime of the deceased? Such instances have, we know, occasionally occurred.†

* Plague.

† See Sussex Archaeological Collections, vol. xxxv., p. 82.

One more extract must conclude our transcripts from this most interesting and suggestive Account Book. It is written on a separate page at the end of the ledger :

A RECEIPT FOR A CONSUMPTION.

Take half a breast of the best weather mutton, the fat end, boil it in conduit water, continually skim'ng it as it riseth, then take up the mutton, lett it be cold, and put it into a gallon of red cow's milk with a pound of the best blue currans, half a pound of the best dates, a blade or two of large mace, two good handfuls of wild daysey roots and leaves picked, washed & dryed very clean, a root or two of comfry or 3 or 4 leaves, set this on the fire till it simper but not boyl too fast. Let it thus stand till it be washed to a potle, a little before your taking it up put into it half a pint of plantane water, half a pint of red rose water, half a pint of mint water, let them have a balme or 2 in it, stirring it continually in the fire, take it up & break al these together very small with your hands, strayn it & sett it in a bason to cool, take off the fatt of it & drink it warm thrice a day, morning, & sleep after it, at four in the afternoon, & at night lesse y' half a pint at a time.

CHAPTER XI.

THE PARISH REGISTERS

CONTAIN as usual a record of entries and exits, joys and sorrows, rises and falls, successive events in "the tale that is told," a continuous "memento mori."

The Elton books are fairly early, have been well kept and preserved, and are full of interest in the various notable particulars which such memorials commonly afford, *e.g.*, the annals of the several families that have called the village their home; the observance of the enactments which have affected the different entries: such as the transfer of registration from the minister to some individual selected to supplant him; the marrying before a Justice of the Peace; the collections under the authority of briefs; the order for burying in woollen; together with incidental mention of events of unusual local importance, such as broke the even tenour of village life, and excited the feelings of the members of the little community.

It was in the year 1538 that the keeping of Parochial Registers was first ordered by Thomas Cromwell, "lord privy seale."* It was, however, some time before the observance of this order became general. The original injunction, dated 29th September of that year, required "the Curate of every Parish Church to keep one book or Register, which Book he shall every Sunday take forth, in the presence of the Churchwardens or one of them, write and record in the same all the weddings, Christ'nings and burials made the whole week before: and for every time the same shall be omitted shall forfeit to the said Church iijs iiij^d."

Notwithstanding this penalty, which would probably be rarely enforced, only 812 Register Books are extant which date from 1538. It

* Stow says: "This month of Sept^r 1538, Thomas Cromwell, lord privy seale, vice-gerent to the king's hignesse, sent forth injunctions to all bishops and curates throughout the realme charging them to see that in everie parish church the Byble of the largest volume printed in English were placed for all men to reade in, and that a book of register were also provided and kept in everie parish church." Hence it appears that the introduction of the Bible, in the mother tongue, to our churches was contemporaneous with that of Parish Registers.

is true that others apparently begin about that time, but it will be found that the entries until about 1597 are in the handwriting of one person, and were copied from such loose documents as happened to have been preserved. This was evidently the case in Elton, as appears from the commencement of the oldest volume, which is thus begun :

“The Register booke of Aillington from the yeare of mercie 1560, and made in y^e Yeare of our Lord 1598 and y^e yeare of the Raigne of our Souveraigne Ladie Queene Elizabeth 40.”

The ordinance* of the Clergy of Canterbury in Convocation, formally approved by the Queen under the Great Seal, made the keeping of these books imperative, for it was expressly ordered (and the order was afterwards embodied in the 70th Canon of 1603) that the entries from the older paper books were to be transcribed on vellum, and to be kept in “a sure coffer with three locks,” of which the minister and each churchwarden was to have a key.

Of the names of families still to be found in the parish, two only appear on the first page—Goodwyn and Edis. Of these, the latter have been continuously resident, sometimes as butchers, gamekeepers, etc., and occasionally serving parochial offices, such as parish clerk; the first mention of them occurs in 1574, “The 9th of Nov. was buried Agnes Edes.”

On the same page we find the Sapcote family :

1565 John Sapcote was buried the 27th daie of September, the sonne of Mr Roberte Sapcote.

1565 Mr Roberte Sapcote, Esquire, and M^{rs} Elnor Sands was married the vith daie of November.

There are but few records in these books of this eminent family, the ancient possessors of the Hall and Manor. We have :

1578 Mr James Harinton and M^{rs} Frances Sapcote were married the 21 daie of Maie.

1579 Bridget Harington the daughter of Mr James Harington was baptized the 29th of februarie in the Chapell of Mr Sapcote.

An entry which is interesting as referring to the “beauteous Chapell” mentioned by Speed, from which the chalice and paten were stolen in the reign of Edward VI. ; the last mention of them is—

1586 The 23 daie of October was buried M^{rs} Elnor Sapcotes the wieffe of Robt. Sapcotes, Esquire.

* Made October 25, 1597.

Our extracts will now be taken indiscriminately, and will have reference to occurrences out of the ordinary course, or relate to families allied to some who are still inhabitants of Elton.

- 1595 Conjux a conjuge interfecta. The 11 daie of June was buried Elizabeth the wyffe of Kelly Lyon, who was cruelie murdered, her throate cut the friday at nighte, being the 9 of June, & soe found dead in y^e morning, beinge done by the hands of her owne husband.
- 1602 The 13 of decembr was buried Laurence broughton slayne in fight by Robt. Waters of Ailton.
- 1611 The 16 of October was buried one called Mr Nicholas Thurgood, yeoman.*
- 1615 Mr William Dickenson, parson of this Parishe of Aylton, was buried at Oundell uppon Thursdaie the xxviith daie of Julie 1615, and when he had been parson 50^{tie} years and upwards.
- 1616 The first daie of December was baptized the sonne of Mr William Bendishe named Skeffington, the s^d Skeffington was borne the 24th of November.
- 1626 The eight day of June was buried Mr William Bendish, Rector of the Psh. of Ailton.
- 1630 John Cooper y^e sonne of Mr John Cooper,† bap. 23 May.
- 1636 M^{rs} Dorothy Cooper, wife of Mr John Cooper, was buried 17 March.

In 1648, and for some years afterwards, the entries are made by Skeffington Bendish, whose baptism is recorded in 1616. His descent from the "Rector" probably procured his appointment to the republican office of "Register,"‡ of which he was extremely proud, and which he constantly parades. That he was a person of no great attainments, although it must be confessed that he kept his books carefully, is evident from the following effusion which appears prominently on the margin of one of the registers:

Skeffington Bendish
ludimagistrum (*sic*)

* The use of the prefix "Mr" commonly denotes the rank of gentleman, a class to which the wealthier yeomen, that is persons cultivating their own land, in some cases belonged. Until the reign of George I., spinsters being gentlewomen were styled "Mistress"—thus "Mistress Ann Page."

† The first mention of the benefactor who founded and endowed Cooper's Hospital.

‡ 24 August 1653. An Act was passed by Praise God Barebones Parliament, by which the clergy were required to give up their books to laymen, who were to be called "Parish Registers." These men were empowered to enter fairly in their books all publications of banns, marriages, births, and burials, with the dates thereof and the names of the parties, and to charge a fee of 12*d.* for every certificate of publication and entry of marriage, and of 4*d.* for every entry of birth and burial. The lay Register was to be chosen in every parish by the inhabitant householders on or before September 22, 1653, and as soon as he had been sworn and approved by the local magistrate, his appointment was to be entered in the Register Book.

Ailtonia, alias Allingtonia (*sic*)
in comit Hunt.

Honi soit Que male pence (*sic*).
Evil be to him that evil thinks.

1648 Feb. 14 Bridget Boyer alias Beho, born Feb. 14 anno domini 1648.

INBAPTIZATA.*

Other entries at this time record only the birth.

- 1688 M^{rs} Frances Ball da. of M^r Thomas Ball, late Rector of this Parish, buried.
- 1689 Sir Thomas Proby, Baronett, buried Ap. 26.
- 1696 Buried a stranger and soldier, Dec. 27.
- 1699 Feb. 17 The Lady Frances Proby, Relict of Sir Thomas Proby, late of this psh., Baronet.
- 1703 Symon Shaw in y^e 90^t yeare of his age, Feb. 1, bd.
- 1722 The Reverend Thomas Doctor Ball was buried feb. 16.
Interpolated: The Rev^d Thomas Ball, D.D., late Rector of this Parish, Feb. 16, 17²²/₃.
- 1726 The Honourable Jane Proby wife to John Proby, Esquire, Knight of the Shire for the County of Huntingdon, and daughter of the Rt. Honourable John, Lord Gower, by the Rt. Honble. the Lady Katherine his wife, daughter of his Grace John, Duk of Rutland, died in childbed in Leicester Street, in the County of Middlesex, on Friday, June 10th, and was interred in the burying place of the Family of the Probys in Elton Church, on Thursday the 16th of June in the Year of our Lord 1726.
- 1736 Ann Bing, 98 years of age, Aug. 31, buried.
- 1737 John Dickins and Ellinger his wife, both in a grave, Octr. y^e 24.
- 1745 John Beaver from Duddington, drowned in Haddon Brook, Ap. 3.
- 1745 Robt. Woolly from Royal, drowned in the Mill Dam, May y^e 15.
- 1751 Mary y^e wife of Richard Palmer, a stroller, murdered by her husband Octr. 17, buried.
- 1755 Burialls Mary Males, widow, aged 87, Septr. 14.
- 1756 John Bletsoe, the Parish Clerk, Aug. 7.
- 1757 Catherine Cook, widow, aged (as said) 95, Ap. 24.
- 1758 Burialls Baptist Borsford Proby son of the Rev. M^r Proby and M^{rs} Mary Proby, from St Martin's, Stamford, Baron, May 17th.
- 1759 Master Granville Proby son of the Rev. M^r Baptist & M^{rs} Mary Proby, from S. Martin's, Stamford, Baron, buried Feb. 23rd.

* "A.D. 1653. Now came in force a goodly Act made by the Usurper Cromwell's little Parliament, or the Parliament of Saints as they call it, *i.e.* all manner of dissembling hypocrites and filthy hypocrites, who ordered not the baptism but the birth of children to be recorded in the Parish Register, and encouraging people to withhold their children from the sacred ordinance."—Lipscomb's "History of Bucks.," vol. iii., p. 47.

- 1761 Elizabeth the daughter of Joseph & Ann Scot, Strollers (the Father says he was born of strolling parents at Unslip in Buckinghamshire), Octr. 18th, baptized.
- 1763 Jane Forster the eldest daughter of the Rev^d John Forster and Jane his wife died Dec. 1 at 6 o'clock in the evening, and was buried in the Family Vault in the Chancel of Elton Church Decr. 6th.
- 1765 Mary the wife of Thomas Marshall, commonly called Poll Eldridge, buried Novr. 21st.
- 1766 Buried Thomas English (run over by a waggon), Aug. 26.
- 1767 Burials Robin Noble (a dissenter), June 20th.
- 1771 Buried Thomas Griffin, a weaver, April 18.
- 1772 Burialls The Right Honourable John Lord Carysfort, Knight of the Bath, Lord of the Manor of Elton, Nov. 26.
- 1773 Buried John Sellers, a Gardener, Dec. 30.
- 1775 Buried George Chadborn (a pauper), aged 85, Dec. 28.
- 1776 M^{rs} Ann Ball eldest daughter of the Rev. M^r Ball, late Rector of this Parish died, Octr. 20, 1776, at Lincoln, and was buried in a new Vault in Elton Chancel on Saturday Octr. 26th.
- 1778 Robt. Salmons of S^t Ives, a blind stroller, b^d June 5.
- 1779 Lydia the daughter of William & Lydia Clark, hanged herself.
- 1780 Baptized Mary the daughter of Edward & Sarah Goodwin, Militia Man.
- 1780 John the son of John and Mary Pridmore of Sutton in Northamptonshire, said to be privately baptized at Sutton by the Rev. M^r Hopkinson, the Curate there, brought over to Elton by the Parents and rec^d full baptism here through his Parents omitting to acquaint D^r Forster of the full particulars, Novr. 20.
- 1781 Buried Eliz^h the wife of Tho. Martin, a woolcomber.
- 1782 Buried John Giddings the older, a Cooper.
- 1782 Buried Esther Lombcock (Lady Carysfort's housekeeper), an Irishwoman, Augt. 19th.
- 1782 Elizabeth Curtis wife of John Curtis, aged 90, Aug. 22.
- 1783 The Rt. Honourable Elizth Lady Dowager Carysfort died in London February 27th, and was buried in their Family Vault at Elton March 9, 1783.

Be it remembered that the Stamp Act* took place in Octr. 2, 1783.

- 1785 Baptized Mary the daughter of John & Elizabeth Spavin, a travelling pauper & stranger belonging to Axbridge in Somersetshire, by a Pass.

* 23 George III., c. 71 (October 1, 1783). This imposed a duty of 3*d*. on every entry in the Parish Register. It fell lightly on the rich and heavily on the poor, placing the minister in the invidious position of a tax gatherer. It was repealed in 1794 by 34 George III., cap. 11. In the Elton books these payments are regularly entered for a few years after the passing of the Act. In 1792 there is a note to the effect that "The Tax is received and accounted for as usual, tho' not mentioned as being unnecessary."

- 1784 Burials Susannah Spencer widow of John Spencer, aged 81, Aug. 3.
- 1785 Elizabeth the wife of Thomas Goodwin, the Hedger, Feb. 24,
- 1787 The Revd. John Forster, D.D., Rector of this Parish, Feb. 20.
- 1789 Buried Thomas Ball, D.D., Rector of Eriswell, in the county of Suffolk,
and Great Massingham, in the county of Norfolk, June 28th.
- 1792 Jane Forster Widow of the Rev. Dr Forster, late Rector of this Parish,
April 11th.
- 1794 Bap. Mary dr. of John & Ann Welldon, Oct. 19.
- 1797 Bap. Geo. s. of Geo. & Susannah Franklin, Ap. 8.
- 1798 William s. of Philip & Mary Fisher, March 20.

Memorandum. That Edward Forster of this Parish was executed at Huntingdon for sheep stealing, and was buried in Elton Church Yard, Sunday, March 3rd, 1806.

- 1801 Bap. Mary the daughter of Richard & Sarah Waterfield, a travelling
tinker, Octr. 26.
- 1802 Buried Mary Sherman from the Angel Public House,* May 14.
- 1802 Samuel Perkins, a lunatic who cut his throat in the Workhouse barn,
buried Octr. 27.
- 1803 John Voules, found dead in bed, b^d Jany. 28.
- 1805 John Plowman from the Angel Publick House, buried Jany. 23, 1803.
- 1805 Thomas Hill, Farmer, came to Elton at Michs. 1804, buried Feb. 15th.
- 1805 Eleanor Frances Beal died in London, buried June 24.
- 1806 Mary the wife of James Serjeant who hanged herself Sep. 3, 1806, buried
Septr. 5.
- 1806 Jane the daughter of Thos. & Eliz^h Fenn, bap. June 23.

N.B. The child Jane entered among the Baptisms June 23 has by a mistake been improperly registered. The entry should have been thus: Jane the base born daughter of Elizth Cook, it appearing that the reputed father Thomas Fenn at the time he married Elizabeth Cook was previously married to another woman then living. P. F.†

- 1811 Buried Abraham Hill, accidentally drowned, May 15.
- 1811 Thomas Plowright, aged 49, accidentally killed in the Gravel Pits, June 1.

It will be observed that in these extracts there are several entries which appear to be of very little importance. They are introduced, as a rule, as shewing when the families to which they belong first came to Elton, and on that account they may be interesting to their descendants

* Now converted into two dwellings occupied by Hodge and Ebbutt. It adjoins the entrance to the Park, and is opposite the house belonging to Mrs. Laurance, and tenanted by Mr. Sawyer.

† Dr. Philip Fisher, Rector, Canon of Norwich and Master of the Charterhouse.

who still reside in the parish. There are many records of death by drowning, of which but one or two are selected. The River Nene at flood times still maintains its dangerous character.

Of late years, that is since 1865, it is remarkable that many inhabitants have attained to great ages. Of this the subjoined are instances :

1865	John Holditch, 89.	1876	George Steers, 90.
1868	Grenville Levison Proby, Earl of Carysfort, 86.	1878	William Hippey, 92.
1870	John Goodwin, 92.	1884	Ruth Mitchell, 90½.
1870	Sarah Bell, 91.	1884	Sarah Chown, 86.
1874	John Crawley, 92.	1887	William Hicks, 86.
1875	Elizabeth Smith, 93.	1887	Mary Hodges, 100.
1875	Charles Braddock, 89.	1889	Mary Hayes, 87.
1875	Lydia Goodwin, 92.	1889	Mary Hayes Mears, 87.
1876	Martha Newton, 90.	1890	Mary Scatley, 87.

Among the vexatious enactments of the Puritans was an order for the solemnization of marriages before a Justice of the Peace—an anticipation of the mischievous custom, now legalized, of civil marriages by the Registrar, an officer of lower position.

Of these unions there are many instances in the Elton Registers, one of which, the first that occurs, will serve as a specimen of the rest.

“The purpose of Marriage between Thomas Thurlby of this Parish, Labourer, and Elizabeth Robinson of the same, Spinster, daughter of William Robinson, Shepheard, deceased, was published upon the 27th day of September and upon the 4th and 11th days of October 1657, and the said Thomas Thurlby and Elizabeth Robinson solemnized their marriage the 13th day of October anno p’dicto by John Norton, Esq^r, one of the Justices of the Peace for the county of Northampton, in the p’sence of William Peake, Thos. Robinson, Sen^r, Tho. Robinson, Jun^r, Tho. Drawater, cum multis alijs quos nunc p’cribere Longum est.”

It is somewhat remarkable that we find in our books none of the Puritanical names so general about the time of the great rebellion, and that there are no entries of licences to eat meat in Lent.

The 30 Car. II., c. 3, enacted that “for the encouragement of the woollen manufacturers and prevention of the exportation of money for the importing of linen, no corps of any person shall be buried in any shirt, shift, sheet or shroud, or anything whatsoever made or mingled with flax, hemp, silk hair, gold or silver, or in any stuff or thing other than what is made of sheep wool only, on pain of £5.”

It was further ordered that all ecclesiastical persons should take an account and keep a register of every person buried, and that one of the relations of the party deceased or some credible person should, within eight days of the interment, bring an affidavit in writing to the minister or parson, that the said person was not buried otherwise than as this Act directs.*

One exception, and one only, was made, viz., "that no penalty should be incurred by reason of any person that died of the plague." The recollection of that fearful scourge was too recent to admit of any unnecessary interference with the corpse of any who might have sunk under that infectious malady.

Our registers shew that this injunction was strictly observed in Elton. From the first entry of the kind in 1678 there is a marginal note such as in the instance given, and this is continued until 1708, about which time the practice appears to have been discontinued.

1678 Affidavit that he was buried in woollen received Octr. 11. John Sansam buried October 5.

Afterwards, this was slightly abbreviated, thus :

1679 Affidavit rec^d Decr. 16. Thomas Drawater, Decr. 10.

The following record is copied from the fly-leaf of the Baptismal Register which begins Feb. 1813 :

It appears from an investigation of the Register Books of this Parish, made by me at the request of J. Rickman, Esq., in October 1836, that the number of Baptisms, Burials, and Marriages in the under-mentioned years is as follows :

1569	Bap. 12	Bur. 13	M. 4 or 5
1570	Bap. 15	Bur. 8	M. 3
1571	Bap. 16	Bur. 11	M. 1
1599	Bap. 24	Bur. 8	M. 3
1600	Bap. 20	Bur. 7	M. 6
1601	Bap. 9	Bur. 9	M. 1

* This explains Pope's lines :

"Odious! in woollen! 'twould a saint provoke
(Werc the last words that poor Narcissa spoke!).
No, let a charming chintz and Brussels lace
Wrap my cold limbs, and shade my lifeless face :
One would not sure be frightful when onc's dead—
And—Betty—give this cheek a little red."

"Moral Essays," lines 246—251.

THE HISTORY OF ELTON.

1629	Bap. 15	Bur. 15	M. 5
1630	Bap. 21	Bur. 11	M. 5
1631	Bap. 14	Bur. 10	M. 2
1669	Bap. 24	Bur. 22	M. 5
1670	Bap. 18	Bur. 17	M. 2
1671	Bap. 14	Bur. 14	M. 1
1699	Bap. 15	Bur. 15	M. 1
1700	Bap. 22	Bur. 12	M. 6
1701	Bap. 20	Bur. 15	M. 7
1749	Bap. 19	Bur. 10	M. 10
1750	Bap. 24	Bur. 13	M. 8
1751	Bap. 20	Bur. 20	M. 2
.			
1800	Bap. 20	Bur. 16	M. 7

Octr. 24, 1836.

(Signed) J. M. SYMONDS, Curate of Elton.

Mem. Mr. Symonds was Curate to Dr. Fisher from 1823 to Dec. 25, 1843.

CHAPTER XII.

BRIEFS.

IN his description of Elton, Sweeting remarks that “the great value of the registers consists in a very extensive list of collections under briefs,” and this he rightly characterizes as “most important.” As our predecessors have exercised unusual care in preserving this list, the present records would be incomplete if we failed to give in full the result of their painstaking diligence. For the purpose of illustrating the objects for which these various briefs were granted, or of recalling the striking events to which many of them have reference, we add occasional notes that may prove of general interest.

In a general way, lists of these briefs, from the time of Elizabeth downwards, are often to be found in the fly-leaves of old registers, or of churchwardens’ account books, but it is not often that one is extant so perfect as that of Elton. How important such a record is may be gathered from the fact that, apart from other considerations, “the repair or rebuilding of churches in post-Reformation days, until nearly the beginning of the Catholic Revival, was almost invariably effected by this method.”* Our interest is excited by the mention of contemporary names and of the sums collected. Our thoughts revert to the wants and accidents of the times, to our forerunners in the parish, and in some measure to their means, if their recorded contributions give any index to the extent of their ability to contribute.

Sometimes these orders are called “Letters of Request,” sometimes “Briefs”—what the distinction is, if any, is not very apparent. As the rule these “Briefs” were licences to collect moneys for charitable purposes by letters patent, which, by an Act† of 25 March 1706, were to

* J. C. Cox, p. 75.

† This Act had been rendered necessary by the great abuses which had arisen in the working of the briefs, and appropriation of the proceeds. It is the first Act relating to them, although they had been so long in operation, and had been indirectly noticed in various ways. They are mentioned, for instance, in a Rubric of the Prayer Book of 1662, and the Journals of the House of Commons record that when the civil war broke out precautions were taken against the exercise of the royal prerogative being exercised for the supply of the King’s wants, or for the relief of sufferers in the royal cause.

be stamped and registered in the Court of Chancery. They were to be read openly in the church within two months after their receipt by the officiating minister, immediately before the sermon. After this, the churchwardens were to collect money upon them in church after their reading, or from house to house in the parish as they were directed by the order. The account of the money so collected was to be endorsed on the brief, which was to be attested by minister and churchwardens under a penalty of £20. The number of briefs was to be entered in a book, and a register to be kept of such collections.*

The cost of these collections was very formidable, amounting in some cases to more than half the money collected. An instance of this is given by Burn relating to a brief for the parish of Revenstondale in Westmoreland. 9986 briefs were issued at a charge of £330 16s. 6*d.*, and this sum deducted from the amount collected, viz. £614 12s., left only £283 16s. 3*d.* for the use of the Beneficiaries.

After a time, the charges being burdensome, and from the frequency of their issue briefs having become distasteful to congregations, they gradually ceased to be issued, and were finally abolished by Act of Parliament† in 1828. Somewhat akin to them, however, was for a time continued in the form of Queen's Letters, which were frequently granted "to be read in churches" for three societies—the National Society, the Church Building Society, and the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.

The full lists of briefs preserved in the Elton register are now given as they occur, with notes upon the objects of some which appear to be of particular or general interest.

Collected for Letters of Request, Anno D'm'i 1661.

ffor Rippon Church in Yorkshire	£00	10	09
ffor Oxfordshire	00	16	08
ffor Hedon in Yorkshire	00	09	08
ffor Elmley Castle in Worcestershire	00	10	06
ffor the city of Chester	00	10	01
ffor Bridgnorth in the County of Salop	00	13	06
ffor the Protestant Churches in Lithuania	00	11	04
ffor the improvement of ffishing, ffeb. 2.....	00	11	09

This was a collection for advancing the trade of fishing. A century before, it wanted help, and the mode of rendering it was a very curious one. The 1st Elizabeth enacts "that for the increase of the provision of

* See Burn's "Eccl. Law," vol. i., pp. 181—183; also Sussex Archæological Collections, vol. xxi., p. 208.

† 9 George IV., c. 28.

fish by the more usual and common eating of it, every Wednesday and Saturday in the Year, excepting Christmas week and Easter week, shall be considered fish days," and every one eating flesh on those days was liable to a penalty of three pounds or three months' imprisonment. In cases of sickness "one competent dish of flesh and no more" was allowed, and this was to be flanked by "three competent usual dishes of sea fish of sundry kinds, either fresh or salt."

That there might be no mistake as to the object of this statute, it was stated that it was "purposely intended and meant politickly for the increase of fishermen and marines, and the repaying of Port Towns and navigation; and whoever by preaching, or teaching, or writing, notified that any eating of fish, or forbearing from flesh, is of any necessity for the saving of the soul of man, such persons shall be punished as spreaders of false news are and ought to be."

ffor Methringham in Lincolnshire £00

Anno Domini 1662.

ffor Market Harborough in comitat Northampton.....	00	05	00
ffor the fire at St Martin's in the fields, London	00	07	00
ffor Harwich in Essex, August 2, 1663.....	00	05	11 ob.
ffor Hexam in Northumberland, Aug ^t 25	00	09	09
ffor Heighington in Lincolnshire	00	08	02
ffor John Ellis of Milton in Comit. Cantabrigia, Octob. 4	00	07	02
ffor Great Grimsby in Lincolnshire	00	03	06 ob.
ffor Hanwold in Bedfordshire.....	00	05	10
ffor Sandwich in Kent, April 3, 1664	00	05	01
ffor Witheham in Sussex, May 1 ^o	00	07	10
ffor Thrapston Bridge, Augt. 4	00	03	07
ffor Basing Church in comit. Southampton, Aug. 28	00	04	11
ffor Henry Lisle of Gisham, Yorkshire, Sep. 15	00	05	08 ob.
ffor Limington in comitate Southampton, Octr. 16	00	02	04
ffor Tinmouth in Northumberland, December 4	00	02	07
ffor Edward Christian of Grantham, Jany. 22, 1664	00	03	06
ffor Cromer in the County of Norfolk, ffeb. 16, 1664.....	00	02	10
ffor Laurence Stolden of Clacton in Essex, Ap. 23, 65	00	04	08
ffor Chester, May 14, 1665	00	04	06
ffor Cockshot in comit. Salop, May 21	00	07	01
ffor Sherifshales in Staffordshire, July 16, three halfpence in brasse, the totale sum	00	05	05

The following entries relate no doubt to that dreadful visitation of pestilence, commonly called the Plague, which was raging in London in 1665, and spread thence through many parts of the country. From the

burial entries in Elton, the village appears to have escaped the general mortality from this scourge. The increase in the contributions for the relief of "visited Persons," both in neighbouring parishes and distant localities, shews the sympathy of the inhabitants with those who were less fortunate than themselves.

Aug^t 2, 1665. Collected for those that were visited wthin the

Diocesse of Lincoln and London	£01	11	04
Collected September 6 for the sd. visited p'sons	01	08	04
Collected October 4 for the sd. visited persons	02	05	07
(ffor Stockburgh in Lancashire, Octr. 8, 1665)	00	05	08
Collected Novr. 8 for the visited persons	01	07	03
Collected December 6 for the visited families.....	01	05	02
Collected Jany. 3 for the said visited p'sons.....	01	07	04

In the "Historian's Guide," under the date 1665, July 5, it is noted : " A general Fast observed in London & Westminster by occasion of the Plague raging there ; and the first Wednesday in every month for the future till it shall please God to remove that judgment."

And on September 5: " Fires continued in London in all the streets, etc., three nights and days to purifie the air."

And in the earlier visitation, we have June 1, 1604: " One whipp'd through London for going to Court when his house was infected."

Given upon the fast day July 4, 1666, towards the relief of the poore visited people of Oundle 12 strikes of wheat, 40 strikes of barley, 19 strikes of mault, 48 cheeses and $\frac{1}{2}$.

There is extant in Oundle a tabulated account* of those who died there of the plague between April 29th and October 31st, 1666, giving the names of those who died, and the places where they had lived. It is remarkable that almost without exception the mortality occurred in the lowest parts of the town, in lanes and alleys where we should expect to find the spreading of any infectious disease. In the six months there were in all 446 deaths, of which 200 were attributed to the plague, and this out of a population of less than 3000.

This fearful visitation appears to have been more fatal in 1665-6 than in the previous outbreaks of it in 1603, 1625, and 1636. From the London bills of mortality we find that no less than 68,596 persons died in 1665, while the returns for the three earlier years shew respectively 36,570, 35,417, and 10,400 deaths from this cause alone.

* See Appendix.

The malady was most fatal during the summer and autumnal months, especially in September; for instance, in London, in 1665, the deaths were in June 590, July 4129, August 20,046, September 26,230, October 14,373, November 3449. In December they fell to less than 1000.

A few extracts from the Diaries of Evelyn and Pepys will give some idea of the calamities and distresses which attended the outbreak of this malignant pestilence.

Evelyn writes :

September 7, 1665. "Came home, there perishing neare 10,000 poore creatures weekly; however, I went all along the City and suburbs from Kent Street to St James's, a dismal passage, and dangerous to see so many coffines expos'd in the streetes, now thin of people: the shops shut up, and all in mournful silence, not knowing whose turn might be next."

October 11, 1665. "To London and went through the whole City, having occasion to alight out of the coach in several places about business of money, when I was environ'd with multitudes of poor pestiferous creatures begging alms, the shops universally shut up, a dreadful prospect."

Pepys writes more fully :

June 7, 1665. "The hottest day that ever I felt in my life. This day, much against my will, I did in Drury Lane see two or three houses marked with a red cross upon the doors, and 'Lord, have mercy upon us' writ there; a sad sight, being the first of the kind I ever saw."

June 21. "I find all the town almost going out of town, the coaches and waggons going into the country."

August 12. "The people die so that now it seems they are fain to carry the dead to be buried by daylight, the nights not sufficing to do it in. And my Lord Mayor commands people to be within at 9 P.M., all as they say that the sick may have liberty to go abroad for aeyre."

August 22. "I went away and walked to Greenwich, in my way seeing a coffin with a dead body therein, dead of the plague, lying in an open close belonging to Coome farm, which was carried out last night, and the parish have not appointed anybody to bury it; but only set a watch there that nobody should go thither or come thence: this disease making us more cruel to one another than we are to dogs."

August 30. "Lord! how everybody looks, and discourse in the street is of death and nothing else, and few people going up and down, that the town is like a place distressed and forsaken."

September 3, 1665. "Up to the Vestry at the desire of the Justices of the Peace in order to do something for the keeping of the Plague from growing; but Lord! to consider the madness of the people of the Towne who will (because they are forbid) come in crowds along with the dead corpses to see them buried. . . .

One was very passionate, methought, of a complaint brought against a man in the town for taking a child from London from an infected house. Alderman Hooker told us it was the child of a very able citizen in Gracious Street, a saddler, who had buried all the rest of his children of the plague, and himself and wife being shut up and in despair of escaping, did desire only to save the life of his child, and so prevailed to have it received stark naked into the arms of a friend who brought it (having put it into new fresh clothes) to Greenwich; where we did agree it should be permitted to be received and kept."

October 16. "I walked to the Tower; but, Lord! how empty the streets are and melancholy, so many sick people in the streets full of sores. . . . They tell me that in Westminster there is never a Physician and but one Apothecary left, all being dead, but that there are great hopes of a decrease this week. God send it."

These hopes were realized, for we read:

October 30. "Great joy we have this week in the weekly Bill, it being come to 544 in all, and but 333 of the plague. And my Father writes that he saw York's waggon go again to London this week, and full of passengers."

It should be noted that in many instances the deaths of the victims to the Plague were not entered in the registers. This is specially mentioned in the burial register of Egglecliffe, co. Durham: "1664. In this Year there died of the Plague in this Town 21 people. They are buried in the Church Yard and are not in this Register." It may perhaps be said that a similar absence of the notice of plague deaths may have occurred at Elton, and that we are not to infer from this that the village escaped the visitation; against this we may suggest that while the usual number of deaths is entered in 1665, viz., twelve, there is no note referring to any unusual mortality, neither is there any tradition in the parish of any sickness of the kind.

The last extract we shall give refers to the earlier visitation, and has a local interest as being found at Peterborough:

1606. Dec. Henry Renoulds was buried the 16 day. [In the margin] Henry Renoulds came from London, where he dwelt, sick of the plague, and being receyved by William Browne died in his house, the said William soon after fell sicke of the plague and died, so did his sonne, his daughter, and his servante; only his mayde and his wyfe escaped with soars. The plague brought by this means to Peterborough continued there till September following.

Collected for the sad Fire at London £10 00 00

This terrible fire broke out about ten o'clock at night, on the 2nd September 1666, near Fish Street Hill in the City of London, where the commemorative monument now stands. It began in the King's

Baker's house in Pudding Lane, and burnt down and consumed in four days the greatest part of the City, including—

“That goodly Church St Paule's . . . one of the most antient pieces of early piety in the Christian world, beside near 100 more . . . the lead, yron worke, bells, plate, etc., mealted; the exquisitely wrought Mercers' Chapell, the sumptuous Exchange, the august fabrique of Christ Church, all the rest of the Companies' Halls, splendid buildings, arches, enteries, all in dust; the fountaines dried up and ruin'd, whilst the very waters remained boiling; the voragoes of subterranean cellars, wells, and dungeons formerly warehouses, still burning in stench, and dark clouds of smoke (this was on the 7th), so that in five or six miles traversing about I did not see one load of timber unconsumed, nor many stones but what were calcined white as snow. The people who now walked about the ruines appear'd like men in some dismal desert, or rather in some greate citty laid waste by a cruel enemy; to which was added the stench that came from some poor creatures' bodies, beds and other combustible goods.” (Evelyn's Diary.)

So also Pepys :

September 5, 1666. “I to the top of Barking Steeple, and there saw the saddest sight of desolation that ever I saw; everywhere great fires, oyle cellars and brimstone and other things burning. I met with Mr Young and Whistler, and they and I walked into the Town, and find Fenchurch Street, Gracious Street, and Lombard Street all in dust. The Exchange a sad sight, nothing standing there but Sir Thos. Gresham's picture in the corner. Thence homeward, having passed through Cheapside and Newgate Market, all burned.”

ffor Stillingfleet in Yorkshire	£00	05	07
ffor William Pearson of Luton in Bedfordshire	00	04	04
ffor Thos. Sloper, gent.	00	04	01
Collected for a fire at Cliffe, ffeb. 18, 1665	00	09	03 ob.
ffor Clun in comitat. Salop, Ap. 1, 1666	00	05	07
ffor Hartlepool, April 8, 1666.....	00	04	08
ffor Loughborough, Jany. 26, 1667	00	09	02
ffor Cottonend in the Parish of Hardington in the County of Northampton, ffeb. 13, 1669	00	08	06 ob.
ffor George Williams of Rampton in the County of Cambridge, Sep. 25, 1670.....	00	04	07
Collected for the English Captives under the Turkish Infidels according to Letters Patents in that behalfe, sent the 30 th day of October 1670 the sum of Six Pounds eighteen shillings	06	18	00

The supplication in the Litany for “all prisoners and captives” refers to such sufferers as these. At the time when it was written (1544), and for many years after, piracy in the Mediterranean, and even in the

British seas was of common occurrence. Large numbers of persons taken prisoners by Algerine pirates were sold as slaves in the markets of Africa. By "prisoners" then we understand criminals and state prisoners, by "captives" prisoners of war or by pirates.* So awakened was the sympathetic feeling of compassion for these miserable captives throughout the kingdom, on account of the Turkish cruelty exercised towards them, that it was not unusual for the more opulent class in this country to make bequests in their wills either for their relief in slavery or for their redemption from it.†

As the result of the collections that were made on this behalf under briefs, we have a notification relating to this particular issue, dated April 3, 1673 :

"This day was published a List of 274 persons redeemed from Algiers, Sally, etc., by the moneys raised in England and Wales by virtue of His Majesty's Letters Patent to that purpose, dated Sep. 10, 1670."‡

That the sufferings of these captives excited extraordinary local interest is evident from a full list of subscribers which is extant, and which we here give in full, as it also affords a catalogue of the inhabitants of Elton at the time, for it was evidently a house to house collection.

A catalogue of the Inhabitants of Aylton alias Allington alias Elton in the County of Huntingdon who contributed towards the Redemption of the English distressed captives fro' the slaivry and bondage of the Turkish Infidels, made upon the 30th day of October, Anno Dm'n' 1670.

Sr Tho. Proby	£02	00	00	W ^m Frere, agric	£00	01	00
Mr Ball.....	01	10	00	W ^m Moyser, agric	00	01	00
M ^{rs} Cooper, Wid.	00	03	04	Henry Kingston, agric	00	01	00
M ^{rs} Bishopp.....	00	01	06	W ^m Robinson, agric ...	00	01	06
M ^{rs} Gladding, Wid.....	00	01	00	John Darvett, agric ...	00	01	00
Mr Blewitt	00	02	06	Richd. Kingston, agric	00	01	00
Mr Bendish	00	01	06	Robt. Henson, agric ...	00	01	00
Mr Sudger	00	01	00	William ffitzjohn, Ag...	00	00	04
Mr Wells	00	10	00	Rob ^t Fizion, agric	00	01	00
John Henson, Ser., agric	00	01	00	Henry Plowright, agric	00	00	06
John Henson, Jun ^r , agric	00	01	06	W ^m Henson, agric	00	00	06
John Bishopp, agric ...	00	00	04	Robt. Thompson, agric...	00	00	06
Samuel Bishopp, agric...	00	01	00	W ^m Thompson, agric ...	00	00	06

* See Evan Daniel on the Prayer Book.

† Sussex Archæological Collections, vol. xxi., p. 212.

‡ "Historians' Guide," pub. 1688, p. 89.

Tho. Parker, agric	00	06	Travers Limm, Tayler	00	00
Robt. Towner, agric	00	06	Peter Morton, Tayler.....	00	04
W ^m Hanlyn, agric	00	06	W ^m Cooke, Taylr.	00	04
Robert Sherman, Sen., A. ...	00	04	Tho. Austen, Taylr.	00	03
Robt. Sherman, Jun., agric	00	06	Tho. Robinson, Senr.	00	04
John Southgate, agric.....	01	06	Tho. Robinson, Junr.	00	04
John Selby, agr.	01	00	Tho. Patmore, fellmong.....	00	01
Edward Goodwin, agr.	00	04	John Henson, fellmong ^r	00	03
Tho. Cooke, Sen ^r , Carpenter	00	02	W ^m Morton, Mason	00	03
Tho. Cooke, Jun., Carpenter	00	01	Rob ^t Henson, fellmong ^r	00	00
Robt. Frere, carpenter	00	04	Tho. Lincoln, Mason	00	04
Richd. Hamlyn, carpenter ...	00	01	George Mayle	00	02
Henry Kingston, carpenter	00	01	Tho. Lincoln, collermaker ...	00	01
Robt. Broughton, fullo	00	06	Tho. Harrison, Glover	00	04
David Edis, Senr., fullo	01	00	Henry Bishopp, Cordw ^r	00	00
David Edis, Junr., fullo	00	03	Tho. Kingston, Cordw ^r	00	04
Robt. Broughton, Jr., fullo	00	02	Jo. Tavvy, Cordwayn ^r	00	03
Thomas Drawater, fullo	01	06	Edw. Plowright, Cordw ^r	00	02
John Edis, fullo	01	00	Gregory Hughes, Cordw ^r ...	00	01
Nicolas Edis, Textor	00	06	Tho. Lupin, Labour	00	01
John Edis, Senr., Textor ...	00	06	W ^m Hill, Labour ^r	00	00
John Edis, Junr., Textor ...	00	04	John Berridge, Lab.	00	04
John Goodwin, Textor	00	03	Tho. Gray, Lab.	00	02
John Parrish, Textor	00	02	John Willson, Lab.....	00	02
Thos. Parrish, Textor	00	06	Henry Henson, Lab.	00	02
W ^m Edis, Textor	00	00	Tho. Henson, Lab.	00	01
Tho. Miller, Textor.....	00	04	John Phillips, Lab.....	00	02
W ^m Edis, Butcher	00	06	Geo. Sherman, Lab.	00	02
W ^m Dexter, Butcher	00	02	Tho. Winsett, Lab.....	00	02
Daniel Barden, Butcher	00	04	John Dally, Lab.....	00	04
W ^m Kingston, Butcher	00	04	Richd. Lowe, Lab.	00	04
Rich ^d Noble, Chandl ^r	01	00	Edw. Ingram, Lab.....	00	03
Richd. Lea, Blacksmith	00	02	W ^m Snow All Weathers.....	00	02
Will ^m Edis, Blacksmith	00	02	John Addye, La.	01	00
Tho. Kingston, Baker.....	00	06	Robt. Goodwin, Lab.	00	02
Anthony Kingston, Baker...	00	04	Rowland Sansome, Lab.....	00	02
Matt. Wakelyn, Shep.	00	03	John Turner, Lab.	00	06
Tho. Tompson, Shepherd ...	00	04	John Goodwin, Lab.	00	02
John Tompson, Shep.	00	00	John Sansome, Lab.	00	02
Robt. Cooke, Shep.	00	04	Tho. Tompson, Lab.	00	02
Henry Cooke, Shep.	00	04	Tho. Thurlby, Lab.....	00	02
Richd. Burten, Shep.	00	04	W ^m Redbourn, Lab.	00	02
W ^m Tompson, Shep.	00	01	Jer. Miller, Lab.	00	00
Daniel Nicholl, Miller	01	00	Jo. Plowright, Servt.	01	00
Nicholas Limm, Tayler	00	04	Jo' Selby, Sevt.	00	06

John Weatherall, Servant ...	00	06	Joseph Southgate, Schoolboy	00	03
Nich. Ouldham, Servt.	00	04	Francis Wells, Schoolboy ...	00	02
Philip Henson, Servt.....	00	02	Anne Miller, Servant	00	06
Robt. Newburn, Servt.	00	02	Mary Coles, Servant	00	04
Willm. Drawater, Sevt.	00	02	Hannah Wells, Servant	00	03
Joseph Hastings, Servt.	00	02	Catherine Rosse, Servant ...	00	04
John Henson, Servt.	00	04	Sarah Hyde, Servant	00	02
Edwd. Plowright, Servt. ...	00	03	Sarah Walker, Servt.	00	04
Tho. Sansome, Servt.	00	04	Elizabeth Willson, Servt. ...	00	02
John Adams, Servt.	00	03	Marjery Hollis, Servt.	00	02
Anthony Pratt, Servt.	00	04	Mary Jarman, Servt.	00	02
John Mayhew, Servt.	00	02	Anne Love, Spinster	00	02
Tho. Marryott, Servt.....	00	03	Mary Peake, Spinster.....	00	02
Myles Marryott, Servt.	00	03	Elizabeth Peake, Spinster ...	00	02
Henry Kingsley, Servt.	00	03			
Tho. Smith, Servt.	00	04	Sum totall.....	£06	18 00
Tho. Tompson, Servt.	00	02			

This catalogue contains a list of all the adult parishioners of Elton at the time when this collection was made, as appears from the insertion of several names of persons of whom it is recorded that their contribution was 00.

Of the families named but few are now resident in the parish—Proby, Edis, Cooke, Freere, and Goodwin alone remain. A few tombstones recall others, as Ball, Plowright, Drawater, Selby, Dexter, and Robinson.

The classification is noteworthy, also the Latin form of some of the callings mentioned, Textor (weaver) among others. Wm. Snow, “all weathers,” was probably distinguished by a nickname, either a play upon the surname “Snow,” or a name originating in personal peculiarities or characteristics, as is the case with so many existing surnames.

For Richd. Burton of Tansley in the County of Darby, lead merchant, Dec. 4, 1670.....	£00	05	01
Collected for Beckles in Suffolk, feb. 12, 1670, whereof is 6 ^d brasse	00	06	11
Collected for Meen in Wiltshire, May 7, 1671	00	10	10
Collected for Oxford, September 17, 1671.....	00	07	08

April 25, 1671. This night happened a violent fire in the city of Oxford in a street called Grand Pool, which consumed in a few hours above forty dwelling houses.

Collected for Great Ford in Lincolnshire, Octr. 8, 1671.....	£00	06	07 ob.
Collected for the English Captives under the Hungarians, Novr. 12, 1671	00	05	01

Collected for Wellin in Hertfordshire, March 3, 1671.....	£00	06	05
Collected for Waltham in Essex, March 31	00	06	01 ob.
Collected for Ligware hamlet in Luton Parish, April 21, 72	00	07	04
Collected June 9, 1672, for the fire in Coldharbour in the Parish of All Hallowes, London.....	00	08	00
Collected June 16, 1672, for Bythorn	00	08	10
Collected for Towcester, September 1, 1672	00	07	04 ob.
ffor Hoxton in Middlesex, Sep. 8, 1672.....	00	06	00
Collected for Glapthorne fire, feb. 9 & 10 th	00	04	00 ob.
ffor S. Katherine's, London, April 6, 1673	00	11	07
Collected for S. Martyn's, London, May 4, 73.....	00	06	07
For Fordingbridge, June 22, 1673, collected	00	07	06
ffor Little Livermore in Suffolk, July 27, 1673	00	04	01
For Little Haddon in Hartfordshire, Dec. 28, 1673.....	00	04	10
For S. Margaret's at Cliff in Kent, feb. 8, 1673	00	05	08 ob.
For Edwd. Singar of Littleton in Middlesex, June 12, 1674	00	06	01
For Watton in Norfolk, Aprill 25, 1675	00	09	05
For Redbourne in Hartfordshire, May 30, 1675	00	07	11 ob.
For Fotheringhay, July 15, 1674*	04	06	11
For Sutton, Nov. 15, 1675	00	16	09
For Northampton, besides £10 sent by Sir Thos. Proby, Nov. 17 last, collected more*.....	10	06	11

“Sep. 13, 1675. The whole town of Northampton very near burnt down to the ground by an accidental fire.”†

For Newent Church in Gloucestershire, Ap. 23, 1676	00	03	04 $\frac{3}{4}$
For Eton near Windsor in Buckinghamshire, March 11, 76	00	07	05 $\frac{3}{4}$
For Cottenham in Cambridgeshire, Aprill 29, 1677.....	00	11	07
For Southwarke, Sep. 10, 1677	01	15	02 $\frac{1}{2}$
For Wenn in Shropshire, Sep. 1, 1678	00	13	04
For Pattingham in Staffordshire, Nov. 3, 1678	00	08	00 $\frac{1}{2}$
For S. Paul's, London, Sep. 4, 1679	02	13	09
For Horsham S. Faith's in Norfolk, Sep, 28, 1679	00	05	09 $\frac{1}{2}$
For Lurgishall in Wiltshire, Sep. 6, 1680.....	03	05	06
For East Dereham in Norfolk, Octr. 11, 1680.....	01	04	05 $\frac{1}{2}$
For Duxford in Cambridgeshire, June 12, 1681	00	08	06
For training up Min ^{rs} for the Protestant Churches in the Lower Poland, Novr. 13, 1681	00	18	04
For relief of the French persecuted Protestants, Decr. 11, 1681	07	13	06

By the Edict of Nantes the Huguenots were suffered to worship God according to their own ritual, and to hold certain offices and commands. Louis XIV., who detested these colonists, gradually retrenched their

* Note that the contributions increase largely for home objects.

† “Historians' Guide.”

privileges. He interfered with their family arrangements, confiscated their property, and on frivolous pretexts shut up Protestant churches. At length, yielding to the persistent persuasion of his bigoted followers, he took the final step of revoking the Edict of Nantes in 1685, and numerous decrees against the sectaries appeared in rapid succession. Boys and girls were torn from their parents, and sent to be educated in convents. All Calvinistic ministers were commanded either to abjure their religion, or to quit their country within a fortnight. It is calculated that in a few months 50,000 families quitted France for ever. Nor were the refugees such as a country can well spare. They were generally persons of intelligent minds, of industrious habits, and of austere morals. Some erected silk manufactories in the eastern suburb of London. One detachment of emigrants taught the Saxons to make the stuffs and hats of which France had hitherto enjoyed a monopoly. Another planted the first vines in the neighbourhood of the Cape of Good Hope.*

Corresponding with this is the account of Evelyn:

1685, November 3. "The French persecution of the Protestants, raging with the utmost barbarity, exceeded even what the very heathen us'd: innumerable persons of the greatest birth and riches leaving all their earthly substance, and hardly escaping with their lives, dispers'd through all the countries of Europe. The French tyrant abrogated the Edict of Nantes which had been made in favour of them, and without any cause on a suddaine demolishing all their churches, banishing, imprisoning, and sending to the galleys all their ministers, plundering the common people, and exposing them to all sorts of barborous usage by souldiers sent to ruine and prey on them, taking away their children, forcing people to the Masse, and then executing them as relapsers; they burned their Libraries, pillaged their goods, eate up their fields and substance, banish'd or sent the people to the gallies, and seiz'd on their estates The famous Claude fled to Holland, Allix and several more came to London, and persons of great estate came over who had forsaken all. France was almost dispeopled, the bankers so broken that the Tyrant's revenue was exceedingly diminished, manufacture ceas'd, and everybody there, save Jesuits, abhorr'd what was done, nor did the Papists themselves approve it."

Great sympathy was shewn throughout the kingdom, and large collections were repeatedly made for the relief of these persecuted refugees, of whom it is computed that at least 50,000 found an asylum in England during the reign of James II. It was probably towards their maintenance on their first arrival, and continued for several years following, that these contributions were so generally given. "Perhaps,"

* Macaulay's "History of England."

says Macaulay, “none of the munificent subscriptions of our age have borne so great a proportion to the means of the nation.”

The King was only half-hearted in their cause, but was compelled to countenance their relief, and on 19 October 1681, before the storm had burst in its full fury, we find the French Churches in London returning thanks for his declaration in favour of the French Protestants—the result of which was the issue of the first brief in their aid, the proceeds of which were largely exceeded in subsequent collections, when the emigration became general, and the necessities of the emigrants increased.

For East Badley in Devonshire, Feb. 12, 1681	£0	5	10
For the Towne of Stafford in Staffordshir., March 5, 1681	0	7	1
Towards repairing St Alban's Church, May 24, 1682	0	15	0
For Anthony Bury of Hansworth in Yorksh., May 28, 1682	0	5	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
For a great fire at Castor in Lincolnshire, July 16, 1682	0	10	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
For a fire at Bishton in ye Parish of Colwich in Staffordshire, Sep. 3, 1682	0	5	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
For a fire under Dyers' Hall, London, Oct. 29, 1682	0	5	11 $\frac{1}{4}$
For a fire at New Windsor, Feb. 18, 1682	0	7	0 $\frac{1}{4}$
For a fire at Brydone in the County of Radnor, March 11, 82	0	6	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
For a fire at Colompton in the County of Devon, Augt. 12, 83	0	10	0
For a fire at Wapping the week after Sep. 16	2	11	0

Novr. 2, 1682. A great fire broke out at Wapping in Cinnamon Lane, and consumed many hundreds of houses.

For a fire at Newmarket the week after Novr. 4, 83.....	£1	8	6
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Evelyn says, under the date 23 September 1683: “There was this day a collection for rebuilding Newmarket, consum'd by an accidental fire, which removing his Majesty thence sooner than was intended, put by the assassins who were disappointed of their rendezvous and expectation by a wonderful providence. This made the King more earnest to render Winchester the seate of his autumnal diversions for the future, infinitely indeed preferable to Newmarket for prospects, air, pleasure, and provisions.”

For a fire in Channel Row in Westminster, Aug. 24, 1684	£0	7	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
For a fire at Worsop in Nottinghamshire, Octr. 19, 1684	0	8	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
For a fire at Sutton in Caster Parish, Northamptonsh., March 1, 1684	0	11	5 $\frac{1}{4}$
For St Mary's in the city of Ely, April 5, 1685	0	7	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
For Staunerton in North'tonshire, May 3, 1685	0	7	5 $\frac{1}{4}$
For Alrewas in Staffordshire, May 17, 1685	0	7	1 $\frac{1}{4}$

For Saresdon in Oxfordshire, May 31, 1685	£0	4	9 $\frac{3}{4}$
For Cawston in Norfolk, June 21, 1685	0	5	0 $\frac{1}{4}$
For Beamister in Dorsetshire, Octr. 4, 1685	0	7	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
For Bulford in Wilts, Octr. 25, 1685	0	6	10
For Haxby in the north Riding of Yorkshire, Novr. 8, 1685	0	6	6
For Alfriston in Sussex, Dec. 13, 1685	0	6	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
For Market Deeping in Lincolnshire, Jan. 24, 1685.....	0	6	7
For Kirksanton in Cumberland damaged by water and sand, March 21, 1685	0	6	5
For Eynesbury Steeple and for the Church being fallen, May 9, 1886	0	6	2
For the <i>French Protestants</i> in June and July, 1686	20	6	9 $\frac{1}{4}$

This is the largest collection recorded. Referring to the brief authorizing it, Evelyn writes: "It had been long expected, and at last was with difficulty procured to be publish'd, the interest of the French Ambassador obstructing it."

With reference to this we are told by Lord Macaulay: "The promised collection was long put off under various pretexts. The King would gladly have broken his word, but it was pledged so solemnly that he could not for very shame retract. Nothing, however, which could cool the zeal of congregations was omitted. It had been expected that, according to the practice usual on such occasions, the people would be exhorted to liberality from the pulpits. But . . . the Archbishop was commanded to inform the Clergy that they must merely read the brief, and must not presume to preach on the sufferings of the French Protestants. Nevertheless, the contributions were so large that, after all deductions, the sum of forty thousand pounds was paid into the Chamber of London."

For Hereford, loss by fire 2200 ^l , Augt. 1, 1686	£0	5	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
For Starton in Suffolk, loss by fire 1118 ^l , Sep. 12, 1686	0	4	11 $\frac{1}{4}$
For Whitechapel and Stepney, loss by fire £8939, March 16, 17, 18, 1686	8	18	11
For the <i>French Protestants</i> , the Brief was read April 15, 1688, collected April 17, etc.	1	2	6

This was evidently a house to house collection, and the result of a second order by the King in Council, made April 4, 1687, a former order having been ineffectual.

For a fire at Bungay in Suffolk, collected Sep. 19, 1689	£1	5	0
For a fire at Abresford, Southampton, Feb. 12, 1689	0	17	1

The remaining entries in the Register Book are made in another and very bold distinct handwriting, headed—

Collected on Briefs.

For a fire at Woollew in Northumberland, 1694	£0	6	0
For a fire at Yalding in Kent, 1694, Dec. 9	0	2	10
For a fire at Gillingham, Feb. 16, 1695	0	5	1
For a fire by Lightning			
For a fire at Broughton, Hampshire, March 29, 1696	0	3	9
For Derby Court in Westminster, Feb. 26, 1698	0	4	3
For Minehead in Somersetshire, March 2, 1698.....	0	4	0
For Soham in Cambridgeshire, 1698, March 12	0	3	8
For Wolverhampton in Staffordshire, 1697*	0	5	3
For West Halton Church in Lincolnshire, 1697	0	4	4
For a fire at Litchfield, Dec. 26, 1697	0	5	8
For a fire at Neubury, March 29, 1699	0	4	7
For a fire in Drury Lane,† London, April 23, 99	0	5	4
For y ^e Redemption of y ^e slaves at Machanes, Jun. 1700	0	15	6
For Nassington, Letter of Request for fire, Aug. 700	0	7	11
For S. Mary Magdalen in Bermondsey in Surry, Oct. 700	0	6	10
For a fire at Brampton in Hunting ^r , Jan. 700	0	15	2
For Beccles in Suffolk, Apr. 701	0	5	7
For Broughton in Northamptonshr., Septr. 701.....	0	7	6
For Eccleshall in Staffordshr., Octr. 701	0	5	2½
For Leominster Church in Herefordshr., Novr. 701	0	5	10
For Chester Cathedral, December 8, 701	0	2	5
For Bromley Church in Staffordshr., Mar. 701	0	2	8
For Old Weston in Huntshr., April 6, 702	15	16	7

Here is the farm which forms part of the Elton Charity land, and here, as appears from Sir Thomas Proby's Account Book, the Squire of Elton possessed considerable property; these circumstances, added probably to personal knowledge of the facts of the case, would account for the largely increased response to the brief, which is in striking contrast to other contemporary collections.

For a fire at y ^e citty of Ely, Octr. 702	£0	5	2
For Haddenham in the County of Bucks, 702	0	2	10
For Blaisdon in Gloucestersh ^r , 702	0	1	6
For S. German's Church in Yorksh ^r , 702	0	1	4
For Rye Church in Sussex, 702	0	1	0

* It appears that some of these entries have been made from a collection of the original briefs, some of which had probably been misplaced.

† This was called "The Theatre Brief."

This was for the reparation of the grand old church there,* an object, however, which did not enlist the sympathies of the good people of Elton.

For Holme fire in Huntsh ^r 702†	£4	16	0
For Monks Kerby Church in Warwickshr., 702	0	2	11
For Lutterworth Church in Leicestershr., March 24, 1702	0	2	0
For a fire at Shuttsford in Oxfordshire, 1702.....	0	1	0
For a fire at Rolleston in Staffordshire, 1702.....	0	1	0
Chepstow Church in Monmouth, 1702	0	1	0
Wye Church in Kent, 1702	0	1	0
Congleton Briefe in the County of Chester, 1702	0	1	0
For a fire at Tuxford in Nottinghamshire, 1703	0	3	11
Parington briefe in the County of Berks, 1703	0	3	0
Fordingbridge fire in comit' Southampton, 1703	0	5	8
Wrottesley fire in Staffordshire, 1703	0	3	0
S ^t Giles's Church in Shrewsbury, 1703	0	1	0
For a fire att Brompton in Shropshire, 1704	0	4	0
For a fire att S ^t Giles's Parish in London, Mar. 2, 1704	0	2	6
For the <i>French Protestants</i> of Orange, 1704, May 7.....	1	0	6
For a fire att Wapping in Middlesex, 1704.....	0	5	6
For a fire att Huntingdon by Letter of Request, 1704.....	2	0	10
For y ^e widdows & orphans of y ^{ose} y ^t p'ished in y ^e grt. storme, 1704 ...	3	0	0

In this memorable storm, in which ten ships of war were lost and the Eddystone Lighthouse destroyed, the low lands of Somersetshire on the shores of the Bristol Channel were deluged by the breaking of the banks and the irruption of the sea. A singular record of this disastrous tempest (which happened in November 1703, the brief being acted upon early in the following year) is preserved to this day by the bequest of a person named Taylor, who, having probably experienced some providential escape, left a small sum of money to be paid for a sermon to be preached every year on the subject of the storm, at the Baptist Chapel in Little Wyld Street in London. The minister has a guinea, the clerk ten shillings, and the two pew-openers five shillings each. The sermon is preached on the Sunday nearest to the 26th and 27th of November. It was in this storm that Bishop Kidder, of Bath and Wells, was killed, with his wife, in his bed at the Palace at Wells, by the falling through the roof of a stack of chimneys. This prelate is of local interest, having been a Fellow of Emmanuel College, and sometime Incumbent of Stanground with Farcet.

* Sussex Archæological Collections, vol. xxi., p. 211.

† Another conspicuous proof of local interest in the case of neighbours.

For a fire att Great Massingham in Norfolk, 1704	£0	2	0
For Church Minshall Briefs, 1704	0	2	0
For a fire att South Molton (y ^e 27 th of Novr. 1703) in Devonshire, 1705	0	5	0
For a fire at Kirton in Lindsey, Lincolnshire, 1705	0	6	11½
For All Saints' Church in Oxford, 1705	0	2	0
For a fire att Somersham, Hunt., by Letter, etc., 1705.....	0	17	6
For Beverley Church in Yorkshire, Apr. 28, 1706.....	0	9	0
For a fire att Inniskilling in Ireland, May 1706	0	9	0
For a fire at Bradmore in Nottinghamsh., May 19, 1706	0	7	6½
Richard Davies, Fire in Surrey, June 9, 1706	0	1	4
For a fire att Great Tovington in Devon, 1706	0	1	6
For Basford Church in Nottinghamsh., 1706	0	1	2
For a Fire att Chatteris in y ^e Isle of Ely, Sep. 8, 1706	0	4	1
For a fire in Morgan Lane, Southwark, Oct. 6, 1706	0	2	0

Here ends the list in one register book. In the next there is a new system of entry, headed—

The Register of y^e Breifs, y^e occasion of 'em, y^e monies collected upon 'em & y^e time when collected from y^e 13 of April 1707.

- Upon y^e breif for y^e rebuilding of Darlington Church was collected y^e 27 of April 1707 y^e sum of four shillings and seven pence.
- Upon y^e breif for a fire in Northmaston was collected y^e 4th of May 1707 y^e sum of four shillings and sixpence.
- Upon y^e briefe for a fire in shire lane was collected y^e 18th May 1707 y^e sum of four shillings and seven pence.
- Upon y^e breif for y^e rebuilding Brosely Church was collected y^e 25th of May 1707 y^e sum of one shilling and elevenpence.
- Upon y^e breif for a fire at Towcester was collected y^e 15th of June 1707 y^e sum of five shillings and nine pence.
- Upon y^e breif for a fire at Spilsby was collected y^e 29th June 1707 y^e sum of four shillings and one penny.
- Upon y^e breif for Littleport was collected y^e 26th of June y^e sum of seven shillings and ten pence.
- Upon y^e breif for a fire at Southam was collected y^e 26th of October y^e sum of six shillings.
- Upon y^e breif for y^e repair of Dursley Church was collected y^e 3rd of November y^e sum of two shillings and fourpence.
- Upon y^e breif for y^e repair of Orford Church was collected y^e 30th Novr. the sum of three shillings.
- Upon y^e breif for a fire at Heavitree was collected y^e 14th of Decr. the sum of two shillings and eight pence.

- Upon y^e breif for a fire in Charles Street, Westminster, was collected y^e eighth of Febr. y^e sum of two shillings and seven pence.
- Upon y^e breif for a fire at St Paul's, Shadwell, Middlesex, was collected y^e 15th of Febr. two shillings nine pence halfe penny.
- Upon y^e breif for a fire at Lisburne in Ireland was collected y^e 9th of May 1708 y^e sum of nine shillings and ten pence.
- Upon y^e breif for a fire at Wincanton was collected y^e 23rd of May 1708 y^e sum of four shillings and two pence.
- Upon y^e breif for a fire at Great Yarmouth was collected y^e 6th of June 1708 y^e sum of two shillings and three pence.
- Upon y^e breif for a fire at Bewdley was collected y^e 20th of June 1708 y^e sum of five shillings and eight pence.
- Upon y^e breif for a fire at Edinburgh y^e 31 of October 1708 was collected y^e sum of four shillings and eight pence halfpenny.
- Upon y^e breif for y^e repair of Brenchley Church was collected y^e 21 Nov. 1708 y^e sum of two shillings and three pence.
- Upon y^e breif for a fire in y^e Strand at London was collected y^e 12th of Decr. 1708 y^e sum of four shillings and eight pence.
- Upon y^e brief for y^e rebuilding of Upper Darwent Chappel in Comit. Lancaster was collected upon the 8 of Dec. 1723 y^e sum of

This last entry is the only one in a handwriting which differs from all others. It will be observed that the amount collected is not entered, and that there is a long gap between the former entry in 1708 and this in 1723.

Upon y ^e brief for rebuilding Great Bowlas Church in Com. Salop, July 25, 1725	£00	02	08
Upon ditto for fire at East Morden in comit. Dorset, Aug. 1		2	02½
Upon ditto for rebuilding Langton Church in com. Lincoln, 8		3	08
Ditto for fire at Crediton & Kirk Deighton in com. Devon & York, 22		2	08
Ditto for fire at Camps Hall & Downton in com. Cam. & Wilts, Sep. 19		2	04
Upon ditto for fire at Market Lavington in com. Wilts, collected from house to house Sep. 28, 1725, by the Churchwardens...		3	07
Upon ditto for fire at Great Torrington in com. Devon, collected from house to house Octr. y ^e 30 th Inclusive		15	09
Upon ditto for rebuilding Bampton Church in Com. Westmoreland, Octr. 31, 1725			09
Upon ditto for rebuilding Waresley Church in Com. Huntingdon, November the 7 th , 1725		1	06
Upon ditto for rebuilding Ormeskirk Church in Com. Lancaster, November 21 st , 1725			06

Upon ditto for rebuilding Darlastone Church in Com. Stafford, collected on Sunday Dec. 26, 1725.....	£00	1	10
Upon ditto for Folkestone fishery com. Kent, May y ^e 1 st , 1726 ...		3	06½
Upon y ^e brief for the loss at the Toun of Buckingham by fire amounting to £19,141 and upwards, collected from house to house June 14 th and 17 th , 1726		1	05 11

One more isolated record concludes this extensive list of authorized collections, and with it this interesting register ends :

Elton Register of Briefs, Anno 1726.

- Upon a brief for rebuilding St Nicholas Church in the City of Worcester,
collected from house to house June y^e 1st seven shillings and four pence.
- Upon ditto for Allbrighton Church, com. Salop, collected in Church July 17th
one shilling and ten pence.
- Upon ditto for loss by fire at Alderford & Great Horwood, com. Norfolk and
Bucks, amounting to £1070 and upwards, was collected in Church July
the 31st three shillings and sevenpence farthing.

This long list, monotonous to transcribe and probably tiresome to peruse, is nevertheless an essential part of the history of Elton ; moreover, it is much more full and continuous than is often found, and the continuity would have been broken had any part of it been omitted.

There only remain the Parish and Churchwardens' Account Books, and these unfortunately are only of comparatively recent date, and contain very little of particular interest.

Of the former, the earliest book dates from 1760, and gives the names of the several occupiers with the amount of their respective assessments, together with the items of the overseers' expenditure. At that date the annual charges levied for rates appear to have varied from ninepence to one shilling in the pound. Mr. William Dexter and John Peake were the overseers ; Mr. Gaskell the acting Justice by whom the rate was "allowed," and John Foreman, Henry Martin, and Rich^d Handson, the signatories when the books were audited. In 1762 the Justices who "perused and allowed the accounts" were Lord Carysfort and O. Jackson.

The following entries somewhat arrest our attention :

Militia man	£2	12	6
Pd. y ^e barber for bleeding Chapman	1	0	
P ^d Sue Goodings & sue fowler for siting up and laying out for Chapman	0	5	6
W ^m Rowlatt for burying 2 people	4	0	
1771 To M ^r Selby for Inoculation	19	9	0
1773 Old Piggin.....	3	3	0
1775 Tho. Morton shaveing Fitzjohn	1	0	
P ^d Mary Taylor for Schooling Eliz. Kinggo 7 weeks	5	4	
P ^d Mary Noble for doctering Blackwell's face	2	6	
Tho. Morton for shaveing Chatborne.....	3	0	
1777 For an old waistcoat for Page	1	6	
1791 To Jno. Afford for an Ass	12	0	
Hannah Dunkley a present from the Town	2	2	0
1793 P ^d Jas. Middleton's order for the Militia	4	4	0
P ^d Jas. Earl's order for the Militia	2	2	0
P ^d Joseph Holt for shaving Wil ^m Spencer from Lady Day to Michs., and Cutting Clark's hair	1	8	
1795 P ^d for bleeding Mary Culpin		6	
1797 P ^d to the Man for the Army	26	10	0
Edwd. Hildich's order for the Militia	7	7	0
Richd. Hayes order for the Militia.....	7	7	0
P ^d to the Postman for bringing parcels from Oundle for half a year.....	2	0	
Augt. 15, 1803 Paid for two substitutes for Henry Gascoine and John Tebbutt for the Supplementary Militia	54	12	0
Paid the expences.....	1	5	6

The Army of Reserve Account.

Paid for a Substitute for W ^m Norman	31	10	0
Paid to White for procureing the above man	1	11	6
Paid for a Substitute for Charles Brice.....	36	15	0
Paid to White for procureing the above man	1	1	0
Paid to the recruit and to White to drink his Majesty's health.....	3	0	
Paid to a Substitute for Thomas right	32	19	3
Received of 41 Subscribers for the army of reserve at £1 1 ^s 0 ^d each...	43	1	0
Recd. of Charles Brice.....	16	0	0
Rec ^d of 52 subscribers at 10 ^s 6 ^d each.....	27	6	0
Rec ^d of John Tebbutt	1	11	6
Rec ^d of Henry Gascoine	1	11	6

There was evidently a combination set on foot in Elton to provide a fund for the payment of substitutes for those who were “drawn” for the Militia; Gascoine and Tebbutt appear to have been the first upon whom the lot fell—afterwards Norman, Brice, and Wright were the unlucky ones. In each case a substitute was provided.

It was now that Napoleon Buonaparte had (in 1802) been declared Consul for life, and after a lull war again broke out, and the declaration was followed by a decree for the arrest of all English travelling in France between the ages of sixteen and sixty; the consequence of this was that some 10,000 persons were arrested and thrown into prison, where they remained for about eleven years. In 1804 Buonaparte assumed the title of Emperor of France, and England had to strain every nerve to oppose his aggressions. The animosity which pervaded all classes thoroughly roused the country, hence the readiness with which steps were everywhere taken to comply with the requirements of the Government.

1804	P ^d to the overseers of Stilton part of the Bounty allowed to a man balloted for the Supplementary Militia, we having a certain number of names classed with their Parish	£1	13	4
1804, July 21 st	P ^d to the wives and families of the Volunteers the time they was embodied at Huntingdon, exclusive of the County allowance	3	0	8
P ^d to W ^m	Johnson's wife and family substitute for G. Ebbutt from 5 Dec. 1803 to 2 nd April 1804, being 17 weeks' pay at 4s. per week	3	8	0
1804, Decr. 1	The Parish of Elton being liable to find one man and a quarter according to the Act passed for reducing the Militia and augmenting the Regular Forces. But not finding a man the parish was forfeited £25 every twenty names liable to find one man	25	0	0
Pd. the expenses of one	Edwd. Childs, a traveller, who was taken ill and died at Elton after being ill six weeks	3	16	9
1806	Paid the Constables expences attending upon Clarkson the time he was kept in hold at the Black Horse, and taking him to Huntingdon upon suspicion of having committed a robbery	3	2	6
Paid 2 years' composition to	Peterborough Bridge Bar for 1807 and 1808	2	0	0
1808	P ^d the expences attending C. Ventes the time when she lay ill, and laying out and sitting up 2 nights	0	15	0
Paid for what C. Ventes had	during her illness	10	0	
Clergman's fees at Elton	6s. 8d., under bearers 4s.	10	8	
Beer and bread and cheese	3s., Clerk's expences 2s. 8d.	5	8	

1808	Paid the expence of Elizabeth Deer's boy going down to Friestone	£0 16 6
	Paid for 7 weeks' board and lodging for the boy, at 9 ^s 6 ^d p ^r week	3 6 6
	Paid for his Bathing 30 times at 4 ^d each time	10 0
1808	M ^r Kettle's Bill for one year's attendance and medicines for the poor	13 13 0
	D ^o for Inoculation of 151 persons at 2s. 6 ^d . each as p ^r agreement	18 17 6
1810, Sep. 8 th	A journey to Huntingdon to receive the money that was paid to the wives & families of the men serving in the Local Militia	10 6
1812	Taking down the number of inhabitants and journeying to Stilton with the same	17 6

CHAPTER XIII.

CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNTS—THE CHAPEL—
LOCAL REMINISCENCES.

No Churchwardens' Accounts are extant before 1784, but from that date they have been neatly and carefully preserved. The usual church rate appears to have varied from $1\frac{1}{4}d.$ to $4d.$ in the pound, and at that time a rate of a penny produced £11 6s. 8d. The money raised by this rate was expended upon certain recurring charges, such as bell ropes, which were continually renewed, reeds for the church and singers' gallery, visitation fees, beer money for the ringers upon the great festivals and royal birthdays, and certain minor necessities. Occasionally the charges appear comparatively heavy; for instance, May 8, 1815, "Wine and bread for 4 Sacraments £1 18s. 6d."

In 1868, when the abolition of church rates was expected, it was agreed that the usual rate should not be assessed until the question was settled. In the following year the necessary expenses were estimated at £42, and a voluntary rate was agreed to and collected, which produced about that sum. A similar plan was adopted, and with success, until 1884, when only about ten parishioners subscribed to the fund. Subsequently these subscriptions were supplemented by offertories collected at each service, a plan which has worked well, and appears to have given general satisfaction.

 THE CHAPEL.

There is a Wesleyan Chapel, a large square building occupying a very prominent position in the centre of the village, and bearing the inscription, "Re-erected 1864." This appears to have taken the place of a smaller structure which stood back from Chapel Lane, and in addition to the original site to have enclosed the ground formerly occupied by a corner cottage, the property of John Franklin. Adjoining it is a neat house for the caretaker, also a room for a Sunday School.

Elton has a resident Wesleyan minister, who is assisted by local preachers, a considerable proportion of the inhabitants being of the Wesleyan persuasion. The whole district indeed around Peterborough is largely occupied by Nonconformists, many of whom may probably be descendants of Cromwell's disbanded soldiers, who, on the dispersion of his army after the Restoration, would naturally settle near the homes from which they were originally drawn. In the time of Faber, that is about half a century ago, we are told* that "about half the population of the parish were . . . dissenters," and in that respect there has since been but little change.

LOCAL REMINISCENCES.

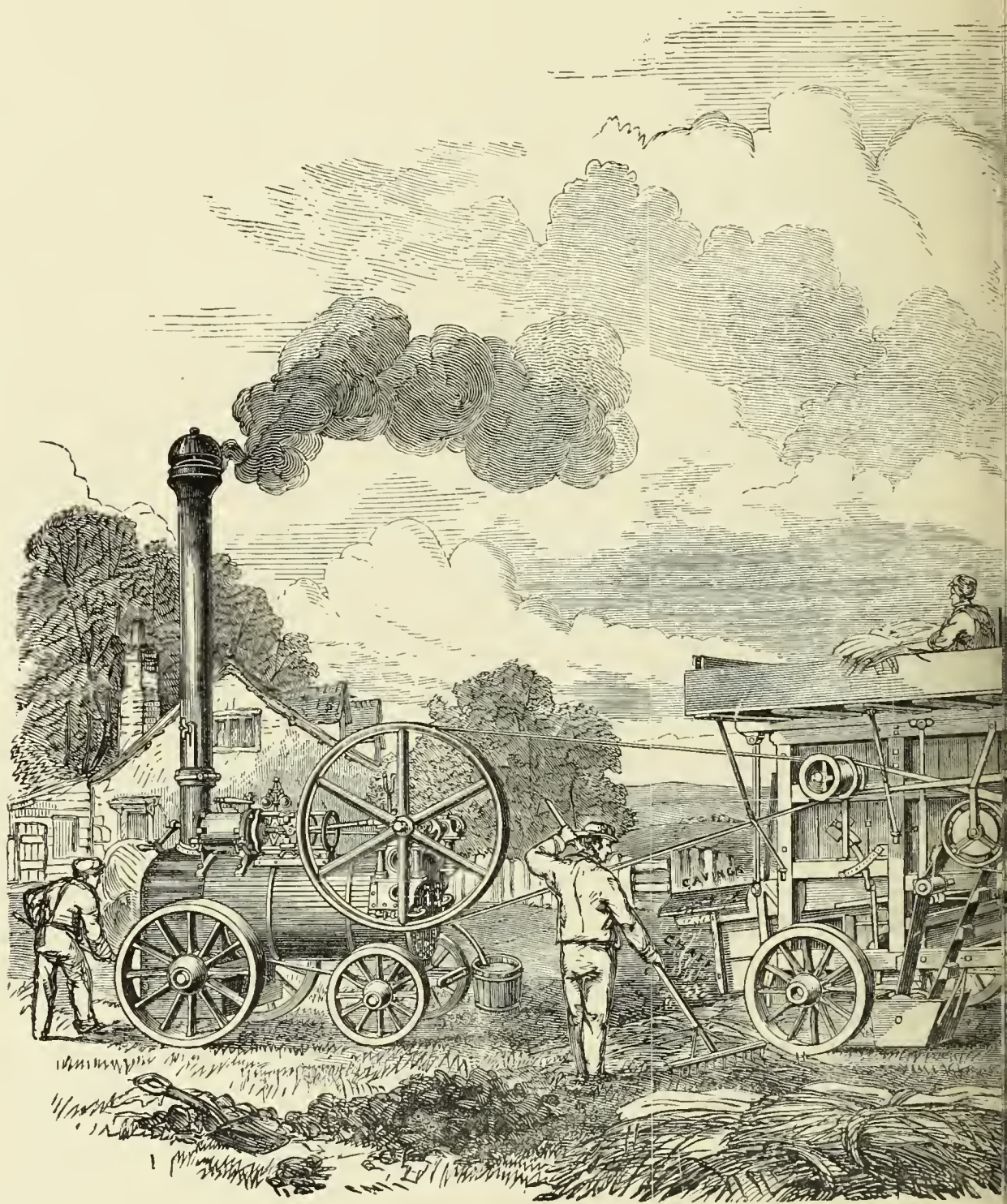
In February 1872 the daily papers recorded the death of an Elton man, John Mears, the favourite groom of the great Duke of Wellington. His portrait is preserved in the picture, "The Last Return from Duty," where he is represented as riding immediately behind his master. He led the Duke's horse at the funeral in St. Paul's Cathedral, the most touching feature in the whole procession. He was buried at Strathfieldsaye.

October 6, 1890, there was buried James Hayes, who died at Warmington at the venerable age of ninety-two. He was born at Elton, where he was baptized on Christmas Day 1799. He was the inventor and patentee of the straw elevator now in general use, and for many years the name of "James Hayes, Overend, Elton," which appeared on these machines, was known far and wide as that of the originator of one of those labour-saving implements that are now in common use in all corn-growing districts.

By permission of the Messrs. Hayes we are enabled to reproduce plates of the straw separator and elevator, both of which were invented by their father. The former is a reproduction by calotype of the original document issued on the registration of the invention; the latter is from the original woodcut used by the inventor.

Of these two machines the Elevator was the first to appear, and it was in general use when the Separator was contrived. At its first trial, which was made at Morborne, the elevator was so far unsuccessful that it was laid aside for some months, and almost considered impracticable.

* Bowden's "Life of Faber," p. 182.



The Straw Elevator, designed and patented by



James Hayes of Elton, as first used in 1853.

From the original Woodcut now in the possession of Josiah Hayes of Elton.



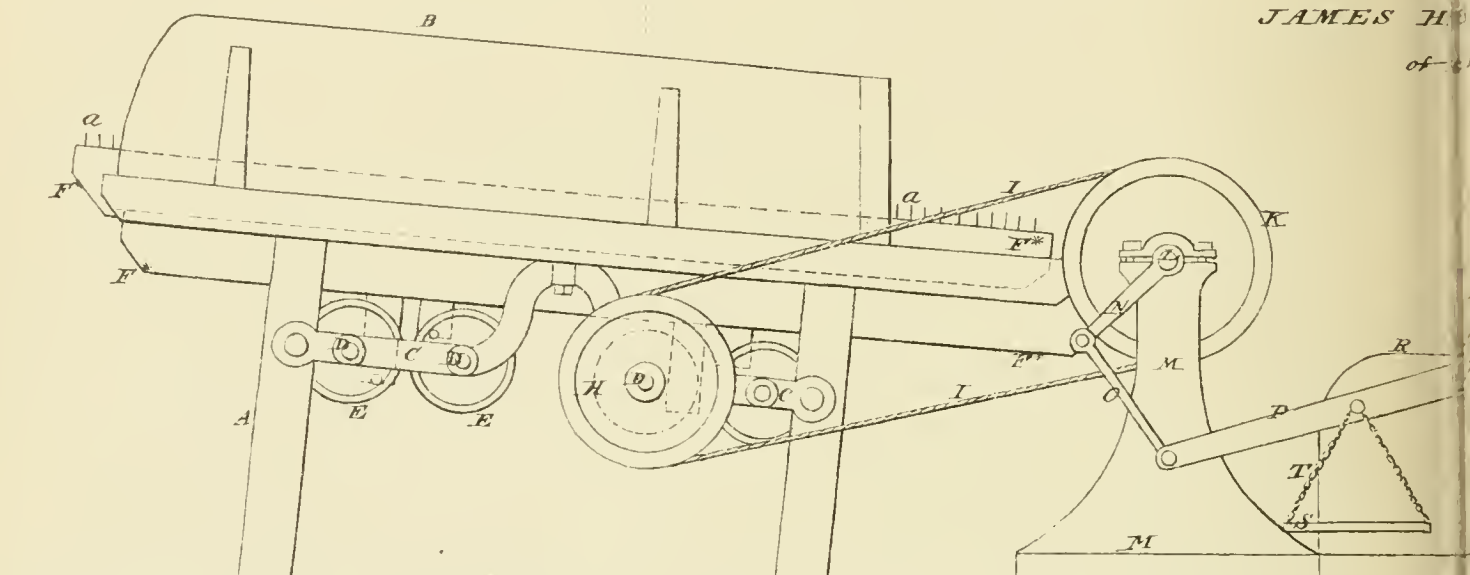
DESIGN FOR A STRAW-SHAKING

Fig. 1.

Registered for

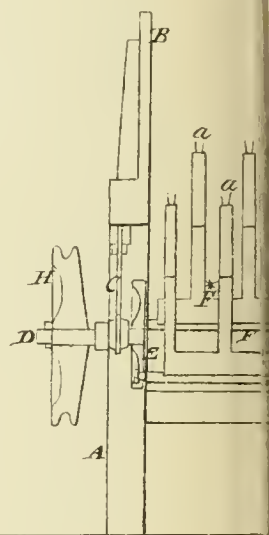
JAMES H.

of



The Drawing exhibits three views of the Design, drawn to a Geometrical scale in which the several parts bear relative proportions to each other. The Fig. 1. exhibits an elevation of one side of the Machine. Fig. 2. is an elevation of a portion of the side thereof. Fig. 3. is a transverse section of the Machine taken through the line AB at Fig. 1. Similar letters of reference are placed upon and denote corresponding parts in so far as such parts appear or can be seen in each of the Figures respectively.

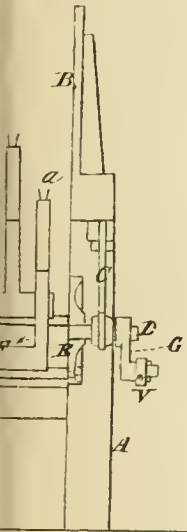
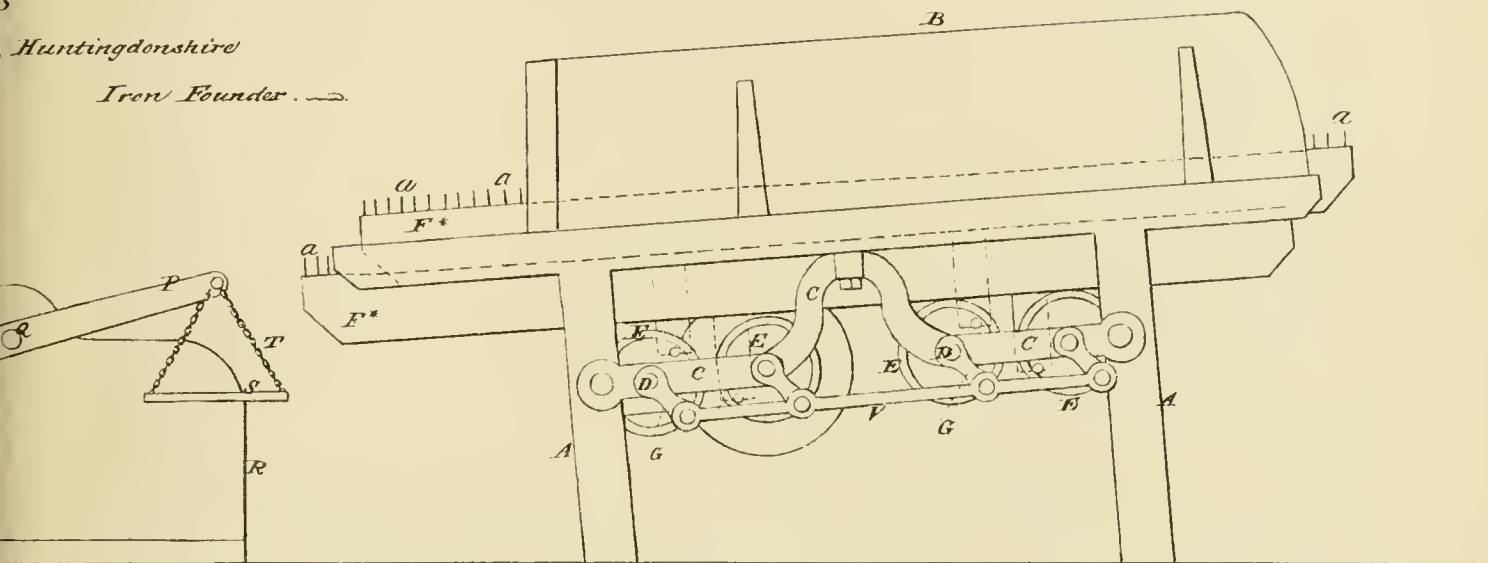
AA marks a wooden framing at the upper part of which are fixed the sides BB, and CC mark metal bars attached to each side of the framing as shown at Fig. 1 and 2; into each of these bars are placed the short axes DD upon one end of which are mounted the circular pieces of metal EE such pieces being connected together by the rods FF to which are attached the pieces of wood F* the upper ends of which are furnished with projecting pins a, a shown at figure 3. GG mark cranks fixed upon one end of the axes DD as shown at Fig. 2 and 3: H marks a pulley fixed upon one end of the axis D over which pulley a band or strap I passes as also over a pulley K mounted on one end of an axis L situate in the standard M as shown. Upon the other end of the axis L is fixed the lever handle N to which is attached one end of the rod O, the other end thereof being attached to one end of the lever P whose fulcrum is a rod Q, the ends of which are attached to the upright pieces of wood RR one only of which is shown at Fig. 1. SS mark two pieces of wood somewhat less in width than the width between the pieces RR. The operations of this machine are as follow power being applied to the winch or lever handle N will cause these Cranks and parts in connection therewith will be actuated at one and the same time and reciprocating & circular movement of the pieces F* and a, a and thereby advance and shake the straw. The Design sought to be protected by the operator plan by the operator plan.



CHINE APPLICABLE TO THRASHING MACHINES.

Fig. 2.

Huntingdonshire
Iron Founder.



No. 638

Designs Office
LONDON 27 Jan 1846



I Hereby Certify that the DESIGN of which this is a Copy was on behalf of
James Hayes of Eilton, Huntingdonshire
Registered this *twenty-seventh* day of *January* 1846.
in pursuance of the Design's Copyright Amendment Act 6 & 7 Vic. C. 65.

Exd. *J. M. Mason*

[Signature]
Registrar

the pieces SS are connected to the levers PP (one only of which is shown) by chains TT. The
rest upon the pieces SS and turning round the said handle N
motion to the pulley K and cranks G which are connected together by a rod V whereby each of
attaching the rods E to the pulleys E as shown the rotation of the said pulleys will produce
the general configuration resulting from the disposition of the several

Subsequent improvements, however, proved its usefulness, and it promised to supply such an evident want, that Mr. Hayes applied for and obtained a patent for a term of fourteen years. Agreements were then entered into between the patentee and Messrs. Clayton and Shuttleworth, of Lincoln, Wallace and Stevens, of Basingstoke, and Charles Burrell, of Thetford, by which the exclusive right of making and issuing the machines was reserved to them on payment to Mr. Hayes of a royalty on each machine produced, and affixing to it a plate supplied by him, and bearing his name and address. These implements are now in very general use, and almost indispensable upon farms of large extent.

The parish had the customary "Stocks" placed on the green, still called "Stocks Green," at the lower end of the main road through the village, in a very conspicuous position. No traces of them remain. It is said indeed that their last occupant, one Thomas Bates, knocked them to pieces after his release, appropriated the irons, and presented the remains to the Earl's steward! This Bates was an old pensioned soldier who acted as town crier, and was famous for an exceedingly powerful alto voice, which rendered him a valuable member of the church choir. When placed in "durance vile" by the parish constable for drunkenness, he remained a captive for a day and a night, failing the necessary order for his release; during this interval his shouts were heard as far off as the Hall, and continued almost without intermission during the whole time of his confinement.

He lies on the north side of the churchyard, with his wife.

A singular custom prevails in Elton. Immediately after the banns of marriage are asked for the first time, as the congregation leave the church, the ringers strike up a merry peal, which is called "ringing a spur." Is this to spur on the hopeful couple to the completion of their projected marriage, of which the first public intimation is thus given? There is no current explanation of the origin or meaning of the phrase.

The following instances of longevity in one family are so remarkable as to deserve mention. There were born to Obadiah and Elizabeth Oakley, and all baptized at Elton, eight children. Of these there were living at one time, in 1890, Susannah, aged 91; Ann, 88; Robert, 86; Thomas, 83; and Obadiah, 81.

But the traditions of Elton for the most part revolve round Father Faber, of whom the following anecdotes are related.

Weldon, the station-master, who was, at the time of Faber's rectorate, in the service of Dr. Butler (Dean of Peterborough, and who had been during his school days Master of Harrow), mentioned to the writer this little episode. "We servants, you know, sir, often hear more than people suspect, and one day when Faber was lunching at the Deanery with my master, he talked of what he was doing in the parish, and what he meant to do. The Doctor listened for some time, and then said, looking at him very meaningly, 'Faber, take care that you *don't go too far.*'"

Thomas Godwin, who lived in Faber's service during the whole time of his residence in Elton, gives the following version of the mysterious noises which are mentioned in Bowden's narrative* :—

"I occupied the bedroom adjoining my master's in the Rectory, viz., the north room over the study, and Father Faber when he required my services habitually tapped upon the wall. On one particular night I heard the customary raps, and on going into my master's room, he said, 'Sit down, Tom—there—you hear that!' I answered, 'There can be no doubt about it.' The noise was like the moving and rolling about of furniture in the study underneath. After listening for some time and hearing the unmistakeable commotion, we both went down into the study together, and there we found all in order and as quiet as the grave." Godwin's comment upon this was: "It is undeniable that the devil exists; every Christian admits this. I believe that the noise was caused by evil spirits to terrify my master who was attacking their kingdom in Elton."

Godwin also relates that some boys were throwing stones over the low wall which then divided the Rectory garden from the road, and when he asked "Who threw these stones?" Faber overheard him, and called out, "Tom, don't put temptation in their way, they are sure to lie: give them a cut *each*, they are sure to deserve it!"

Godwin remembers Faber preaching under the acacia, a venerable remnant of a tree still standing on the lawn, and the garden was thronged by a crowd of old and young, rich and poor, who all afterwards joined in the Te Deum, the Old Hundredth, and other Psalms, with an energy which caused them to be heard far and wide.

The Acacia, then in its prime and a very fine specimen, was said to be a scion of the first tree of the kind planted in England, if not the very

* Page 184.

first. It is interesting to know that Faber planted the cedar, the copper beeches, and many trees in the lower field; his wish was "to make the place look like a little park."

From notes supplied by Godwin, we can add a fairly continuous and reliable account of the tenour of Faber's ordinary life at Elton, and from this it would appear that the reviewer of "his Life by Bowden" was mistaken in the conclusion that he was "lonely" in his Huntingdon home.

His establishment consisted of an old cook, "Molly," a Yorkshire woman (who had lived in the Faber family before "Fred," as she called him, was born), Anne and Mary Godwin. There was also Thomas Godwin in the house, assisted both indoors and in the garden by William Webb and William Rusher. Faber had a pupil, a Mr. Harrison from Westmoreland; and for some time he had as an assistant lay-helper George Hawkes, who also studied under his guidance. His idea was to form a brotherhood, of which Hawkes was thought likely to prove a leading member.

The habits of the household were simple and regular, and the hours early. Much time was given to meditation, which the Rector practised himself and inculcated upon others; reading, writing, and teaching occupied a large part of the day. When morning and evening prayer were not said in the church, they were said in the dining-room in the Rectory. Saints' day services at the church were carefully celebrated with full prayers and a short extempore address to children. The poor and the sick were regularly visited and well cared for, and in this part of his labours his young men were associated.

Sunday was a day marked by careful services in Church, attended by overflowing congregations, not only from Elton but also from neighbouring parishes. One circumstance was noticeable: on that day the oldest man in the village, Samuel Millar, was regularly invited to take his dinner with the Rectory servants. The absence of the Rector from his own pulpit was a very rare occurrence; indeed it happened twice only during the time of his residence in Elton—once when he officiated at Benefield, and once when he was at Ambleside. Besides the neighbouring clergy, there were many visitors at the Rectory, some of conspicuous position and high reputation; among the number were the poet Wordsworth, Sir Roundel Palmer, Beresford and Lady Mildred Hope, Lord John Manners, and Mr. Watts-Russell. Mr. Knox, then a student at Cambridge, was perhaps one of his most intimate friends, and he, before Christmas and Easter, would come and make a sort of retreat at Elton. Afterwards he became a priest and oratorian, and finished his work at Brompton.

Surely, with such occupations and with such friends as these, it was a mistake of the reviewer of "his Life" to say that he was "lonely" in his parish.

He found his recreation in gardening and planting, and in strolling by the river accompanied by his three dogs, "Leo," "Dash," and "Spot." These sapient animals, who followed him, mad with delight, on ordinary occasions, retired quietly and unrebuked when he walked to the church, as his habit was, in cap and gown and hood.

The guest-chamber was the large room over the hall, which was well furnished, and in striking contrast to his own dormitory. The small room adjoining his bedroom was fitted up as an oratory, with painted windows, removed by the late Rector; the approach to this was by the old oaken staircase, which still remains as it was three centuries ago, and probably formed part of the original building.

One more anecdote remains to be told. It is widely known, will long remain in the memory of the inhabitants, and is indeed a remarkable instance of canine sagacity. At Netherend, in a cottage near the Rectory, there lived an old shepherd, George Moore, whose daily helpmate and companion for years had been a dog. When the time came that George was laid upon a sick and, as it proved, dying bed, the dog, which at first was permitted to remain near him as usual, became troublesome in its notice of its master, and had to be removed to a shed—locally called "the barn"—and there it was closely confined until the end came some days afterwards. It was not released until some time after the burial, and was shut quite away from the funeral party. In due course, when all was over, it was untied, and, strange to say, it immediately ran to the churchyard, half a mile distant, went directly to its master's grave, and there remained until it was removed!

CONCLUSION.

UNDER the impression that all authentic records relating to our village must have an interest for some, we have not hesitated to relate fully all that we have been able to glean from such documents as have been accessible. And the work has grown upon us.

Encouraged by the sympathetic interest of several neighbours who have willingly imparted much varied information, we have recorded facts and circumstances, in themselves perhaps trivial, but which have seemed to increase in importance as they have engaged their attention. Home instincts are very strong; and, when the chord is touched which vibrates to the sound of whatever relates to a forefather, that sacred feeling is awakened which enkindles an undying interest in the past. Apparently the race of yeomen (small freeholders farming their own land) is dying out. In former days there were many such in Elton, to whom the poet's* description would apply:

“ Happy the man whose wish and care
A few paternal acres bound,
Content to breathe his native air
On his own ground.”

But they have left the place. The hurry and bustle and glare and excitement of towns have attracted the unsettled or the more adventurous. Occasionally, however, here and there one returns for a while to the abode of his youth, and then he dwells lovingly upon all that recalls his early days, and the memories of his village home revive. His is that feeling of Goldsmith's “Traveller”:

“ Where'er I roam, whatever climes I see,
My heart untravelled still returns to thee !”

The natural desire so touchingly expressed by the peasant poet† of

* Horace, Odes, v. 2. “Beatus ille”

† John Clare, born 1793 at Helpstone, died 1864.

Northamptonshire, and recorded on the memorial cross of his native Helpstone, possibly arises within him :

“ O let one wish, go where I will, be mine,
To turn me back and wander home to die
'Mong nearest friends, my latest friends resign,
And in the churchyard with my kindred lie.”

“ No bells like Elton bells !” “ No church like Elton !” “ No village like ours !” These are the remarks of many who revisit their early home.

For them, as for those who remain, these notes have been compiled. The perusal of them may perhaps revive or preserve some half-forgotten memories. To the compiler they have given that local knowledge which generates the home feeling he greatly desires. His work will not have been in vain if it kindles in any the interest it has had for him. To those whose information has aided him in his task, especially to the noble owner of the Hall, whose great courtesy and practical assistance have been invaluable, he offers his grateful acknowledgments. To their kindly consideration he commits the result of his researches, not without a hope that, although he is a late comer to their parish, his name may be a living memory with them and theirs when he must be personally forgotten.

Appendix.

PARTICULARS OF THE GLEBE LANDS.

The Act for enclosing the Elton lands is the 19 George III., and the award assigning a due proportion to the Rector, then Dr. Forster, is dated February 17, 1780.

The Rector's allotment in lieu of tithes and common rights (but excepting Easter offerings, surplice fees, and mortuaries, and certain insignificant tithes arising from small specified tenements) amounted to about 500 acres, contained principally in two farms, called respectively the Home Farm and the Lodge Farm—the former adjoining the village, the latter at a distance from it of nearly two miles.

The description and acreage of this glebe, from which the income of the living is derived, is here given as measured in the Ordnance Survey, decimal parts being estimated roughly.

RECTORY.	A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.
House and Grounds.....	2	0	20			
Garden Close	2	2	1			
River Field	1	1	37			
Part of Lammas Field	2	2	23			
Remainder of Lammas Field	5	3	20			
Vicarage Close	1	0	9			
	<hr/>			15	2	30
BY RIVERSIDE.						
Staunch Meadow	8	3	2			
Ings Meadow	21	1	23			
	<hr/>			30	0	25
HOME FARM.						
Bury Leys, Pasture	35	3	9			
House, Yards, and Home Close	3	1	15			
Bank Ground	22	2	13			
Stone Pit Ground	24	2	38			
Hither Stone Pit Ground, Pasture.....	21	3	3			
Windmill Hill	24	1	19			
Highgate Ground, Pasture	12	3	30			
Willow Row Close	14	2	26			
Newton Way Ground	18	2	20			
Newton Way Ground	18	0	29			
	<hr/>			197	0	2

THE LODGE FARM.—First Portion.				A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.
House, Yards, etc.	1	0	6						
West House Close, Pasture	18	1	0						
East House Close, Arable	11	2	30						
Bellamy's Close	30	1	2						
Brook Ground	14	1	30						
Brook Meadow	6	3	2						
	<hr/>						82	1	30
Second Portion.									
The 50 acres, Pasture	50	0	25						
The 40 acres, Arable	40	3	21						
	<hr/>						91	0	6
Third Portion.									
Peter's Patch, Pasture	9	2	15						
Upper Royston Hill, Pasture	23	2	28						
Lower Royston Hill, Pasture	23	1	17						
Lower Peter's Patch	16	0	39						
Street Way	25	1	22						
	<hr/>						98	1	1
							<hr/>		
Total							514	2	14
							<hr/>		

PARTICULARS OF THE CHARITY LAND.

Cooper's Hospital is supported by the proceeds of Blyton Farm in the parish of St. Nicholas, in the city of Lincoln. This farm was let on lease in 1871, at a rent of two hundred and twenty pounds a year, but now produces only one hundred and fifty. The present tenant is Mr. William Stephenson Parkin, of Wilson Street, Lincoln. There are no buildings on the farm.

The acreage is 88 a. 3 r. 21 p. divided as follows:—

	A.	R.	P.
The first thirteen acres	13	0	34
The sixteen acres	15	3	11
The first or near eighteen acres	18	1	5
The far eighteen acres.....	17	2	25
The five acres	5	3	26
The eighteen acres (formerly in two closes).....	18	0	0
	<hr/>		
	88	3	21
	<hr/> <hr/>		

PARTICULARS OF THE ENDOWMENTS OF ELTON SCHOOLS.

These endowments, as specified in the Scheme of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales, dated 4th July 1876, consist of—

1. The School Buildings, with their site and appurtenances, containing one acre, or thereabouts.

2. Certain lands, situated at Old Weston in the county of Huntingdon, and containing by estimation 53 acres, or thereabouts (52 a. 3 r. 36 p. according to the Old Survey, as furnished by Mr. Laurance).

3. A sum of £738 19s. 4*d.* Reduced Three per cent. Annuities, held by the official Trustees of charitable funds.

4. Two sums of £370 13s. Reduced Three per cent. Annuities, and of £49 5s. 7*d.* Consols, held by the official Trustees of charitable funds.

There is also a payment (now, in 1892, £45 a year) made to the School Managers by the Trustees of Cooper's Hospital.

BUNDLE: 1666. BURIALS FROM AP'IL: 29: TO OCTOB' 31.

The days of the months.	The Places where the People died.	The names of them that are Dead.	The Diseases.	The Number.
April 29, 30	North end	Thomas Foord 2 Sonns	Plague	2
May 6	Chapel end	William Turner's Wife	Dropsey	1
	Butcherras St.	Thomas Bennington a daughter	New borne	1
	North End	John Bing, Senr., a son	Convulsion	1
		John Francis a daughter	New borne	1
		Edward Williamson a son	Plague	1
May 17	Pest house	Thomas Foord & his daughter	Pl.	2
	North End	Mr. Wesson a son	Consumption	1
May 20		Widow Wise a daughter	Pl.	1
		Edward Freer a son, Theoph. Griffin a daughter	Pl.	2
		Henry Vernist, Joane Good, Wil. Rippon's man	Pl.	3
May 25		John Mantil a son & William Rippon	Pl.	2
	Church Lane	Ann Ebbs	Dropsey	1
May 28	North End	Thomas Elmes a son, Widow Wise a daughter	Pl.	2
May 29		Widow Greenwood	Collick	1
May 30		Mrs Wine, Rose Clifton & Widow Good's daughter	Pl.	3
		Edw. Williamson a Daugr & Mary Wise a dr.	Pl.	2
		Widow Yernist a Daughter	New borne	1
June 1		Widow Wise & Widow Yernist	Pl.	2
June 2		Widow Wise a daughter & Mary Hill	Pl.	2
June 3		Mr Wine a daughter & Edward Wise	Pl.	2
	Church Lane	John Mantil a son & Thomas Clarke	Pl.	2
	North End	Mr Hall of London a son	Convulsion	1
June 4	Pest Houses	John Mantil's Wife & Edwd. Williamson	Pl.	2
		George Mokes	Imposthum	1
June 5	North End	Peter Gray	Pl.	1
		Widow Williamson a dr. & Zach. Mew a dr.	Pl.	2
June 6		John Mantil a son, Thos. Elms a dr., & Widow Goode, Sr	Pl.	3
June 7		Theoph. Griffin a son, John Deats, Jr., 2 sons	Pl.	3
June 8		John Silk a daughr., Widow Bird 2 drs.	Pl.	3
June 9	Stoke Bridge Lane	Widow Aborne	Dropsey	1
	North End	John Hill's wife and daughter	Pl.	2
June 10		John Silk a son	Pl.	1
		Robt. Robinson, Tho. Elms's wife, & Tho. Henson a son	Pl.	3
June 11		John Silk's wife, Matt. Billing's maid	Pl.	2
June 12		Robt. Wells a dr., Grif. Ladson a dr., & John Silke	Pl.	3
June 13		John Tomblston a Dr, Will. Ladson, Tho. Henson a dr.	Pl.	3
June 14		Widow Watson, John Tomblston, & Hy. Males a dr.	Pl.	3
	Mill Lane	Henry Wilton a daughter	Pl.	1
June 15	North End	Zach. Mew's wife & Griffin Ladson's wife	Pl.	2
June 16	Pest House	Matthew Gauge's wife	Pl.	1
	Mill Lane	William Clarke's wife & Henry Wilton's wife	Pl.	2
	North End	John Bird, Junr	Pl.	1
June 17		Zach. Mews & Henry Males a dr.	Pl.	2
June 18		Rich ^d y ^e son of John Bird & Rob. Well's wife	Pl.	2

The days of the months.	The Places where the People died.	The names of them that are Dead.	The Diseases.	The Number.
June 19	Chapel End	Thomas Gee's wife	Bleeding	1
	North End	Widow Cope & Alexander Bizbey	Pl.	2
		Thomas Henson a son & Thos. Griffin a son	Pl.	2
June 21	Pest House	Theophilus Griffin a son	Pl.	1
	North End	Theophilus Griffin's wife	Pl.	1
		Thos. Sellers, Junr., & William Ladson's wife	Pl.	2
June 23		Henry Webster & Thomas Clarke	Pl.	2
	Pest Houses	Widow Chambers, Widow Noakes a son, & John Hill	Pl.	3
June 25		William Clarke a son	Pl.	1
	Stoke Bridge Lane	Samuell Goodyear a son	Pl.	1
	North End	Robt. Wells a dr. & Thos. Griffin a daughter	Pl.	2
June 26		John Bird, senr.	Pl.	1
June 27		Henry Crofts, a son	Pl.	1
	Pest Houses	A son of Widow Randle	Pl.	1
June 28		Thos. Fuller, Senr, & Widow Makes a son	Pl.	2
		Matt. Gauge & Richard Woolsey	Pl.	2
June 29	North End	Thomas Griffin a daughter	Pl.	1
	Ashton	Richd. Pollard's wife & granddaughter	Pl.	2
June 30	North End	Thos. Hanson, S ^r , & Wid. Bell at y ^e Town Houses	Pl.	2
	Stoke Bridge Lane	Benjamin Pickering a son	Pl.	1
	S ^t Silas Lane	William Mantil a daughter	Pl.	1
July 1	North End	Old Thos. Wise & John Billing	Pl.	2
		Nich. Andrew a son & Thos. Griffin a dr.	Pl.	2
July 2		Nich. Andrew's wife	Pl.	1
July 3	Pest Houses	Widow Mokes & her son	Pl.	2
		Edward Revel's wife	Pl.	1
July 4	North End	Thomas Griffin	Pl.	1
July 5		Widow Griffin a daughter	Pl.	1
	Chapel End	Widow Bing a granddaughter	Pl.	1
July 8	Pest Houses	John Lucas's wife	Pl.	1
July 9	Stoke Bridge Lane	John Ceward	Pl.	1
	North End	Old Thomas Sellers' wife & Widow Webster, S ^r	Pl.	2
	Mill Lane	Thomas Godbey	Pl.	1
	S ^t Sith's Lane	John Mantil a daughter	Pl.	1
July 10	Berreware Street	Old George West	Plague	1
	Pest Houses	Old Lee & Daniel Webster, Senr.	Pl.	2
	Stoke Bridge Lane	Samuel Goodyear a son	Pl.	1
July 12		Boniface Pickering a son, Sam ^l Good-year son	Pl.	2
	Pest House	George Blenkinsops	Pl.	1
	S ^t Sith's Lane	Widow Mantil	Pl.	1
July 13	Stoke Bridge Lane	Saml. Goodyear's wife's mother	Pl.	1
	At a Cabbin	William Luddington's eldest son	Pl.	1
July 16	S ^t Sith's Lane	M ^r Will. Fillbrigg's man, Will. Mantill a dr.	Pl.	2
July 17	North End	John Holborne a Daughter	Pl.	1
	Ashton	Thomas Boot's wife	Childe bed	1
July 18	Elminton	Widow Tatam a dr., at a Cabbin	Pl.	1
	Stoke Bridge Lane	Samuel Goodyear a Daughter	Pl.	1
	North End	John Suthwell a Daughter	Pl.	1
July 19		William Warren a son	Pl.	1
	Pest House	Thomas Singlewood	Pl.	1
July 20	North End	Henry Crafts	Pl.	1
	Ashton	John Henson, Senr.	Pl.	1
July 21	Berreware	John West a son, John Mantill, s ^r , a dr.	Pl.	2

The days of the months.	The Places where the People died.	The names of them that are Dead.	The Diseases.	The Number.
July 22	S ^t Sith's Lane Berreware Ashton	William Gilliot a son Mary West Widow Ranckel a dr., by y ^e way to y ^e Pest Ho.	Pl. Pl. Pl.	1 1 1
July 23	Pest House	Henry Alling a son	Pl.	1
July 24	Stoke Bridge Lane	Henry Wood, his wife, & John Randle	Pl.	3
July 25	Berreware	John West & his son	Pl.	2
July 27	North End	John Ashton & Thomas Corbet	Pl.	2
July 28	Berreware	Widow West	Pl.	1
July 29	North End	Widow Crafts	Pl.	1
	Ashton	Widow Henson, Sen ^r	Pl.	1
July 30	Stoke Bridge Lane	Boniface Pickering	Pl.	1
Aug. 1	Saint Sith's Lane	Widow Foord	Dropsey	1
Aug. 3	Stoke Bridge Lane	Samuel Goodycar a daughter	Pl.	1
Aug. 4	North End	John Southwell a son Elizabeth Wellamott	Pl. Timpeny	1 1
	Berreware	Peter Cranck a son	Pl.	1
Aug. 6		John Caubeert	Pl.	1
	Pest House	Robert Parnell's wife	Pl.	1
	North End	Widow Stevens	Pl.	1
Aug. 7		Thos. Webster a dr., Widow Hill a son	Pl.	2
	Berreware	Widow Caulvert	Pl.	1
Aug. 10	Ashton	Thomas Gilbert	Pl.	1
Aug. 12	Berreware	Edw. Smith a daughter	Pl.	1
Aug. 14	Ashton	William Cookings	Pl.	1
	Stoke Bridge Lane	Widow Pickering, Junr., a dr.	Pl.	1
Aug. 15	Berreware	Edward Smith's wife	Pl.	1
Aug. 16	Pest Houses	Thomas Blinkinsops	Pl.	1
Aug. 17, 20		Peter Cranck two daughters	Pl.	2
Aug. 24	Butcherrow St.	Robert Black	Consumtion	1
Aug. 25, 26	Berreware	Edward Smith 2 daughters	Pl.	2
Aug. 29	Church Lane	Thomas Barnes	Pl.	1
Aug. 30	Berreware	Edward Smith	Pl.	1
	At a Cabbin	John Webster a daughter	Teeth	1
Aug. 31	Pest House	William Coward a daughter	Pl.	1
Sep. 2	North End	Thomas Freer, Senr.	Pl.	1
Sep. 10	Butcherrow Street	James Wattle's wife	Pl.	1
Sep. 10, 11	Pest House	Widow Barnes a son & a daughter	Pl.	2
	North End	Richard Wise	Pl.	1
Sep. 13	S ^t Sith's Lane	Elizabeth Boaz	Dropsey	1
Sep. 15	Pest House	William Coward a son	Pl.	1
Sep. 16	Chapel End	Phillip Collop	Pl.	1
		Richard Bonner a son	Convulsion	1
Sep. 18	Pest House	James Wattell	Pl.	1
	Church Lane	William Emberson a daughter	Pl.	1
Sep. 23	Pest House	Widow Coward a son	Pl.	1
Sep. 26	Church Lane	Old Edward Banfield	Pl.	1
	Ashton	Thomas Scotney a daughter	Teeth	1
Sep. 27	Church Lane	William Fowler	Consumsion	1
	North End	William Heard wife	Dropsey	1
Oct. 1	Butcherrow Lane	John Austin's wife	Pl.	1
Oct. 10, 12	Church Lane	Widow Banfield a son & a daughter	Pl.	2
Oct. 13	Pest House	Margaret Wattle	Pl.	1
Oct. 14	fr. Hemington	M ^{rs} Williams	Consumsion	1
	Chapel End	John Lee a daughter	Teeth	1
Oct. 19	North End	Daniell Foord	Y ^e Pl. of y ^e guts	1
	Butcherrow Lane	John Austin	Pl.	1
Oct. 31	Chapel End	Elizabeth Wells	Dropsey	1

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